

Hafa Adai!

JRM asked for more military vessels to visit NMI. **PAGE 2**

DOL boosts private-public alliances in apprenticeship programs. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Spearfisherman drowns

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI reported its first fatal drowning this year after a local man was swept out to sea while spearfishing with friends.

According to sources, the 54-year-old local man had gone spearfishing with three others last Saturday and had been swept out to sea. It was learned that the man's body was later recovered.

The Department of Pub-
See **DROWNS** on Page 4



Norita

Recoupment eyed for BOOST funds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Department of Finance secretary Tracy B. Norita said that they are looking at recoupment of funds from

businesses that were not supposed to receive money from the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST grant program.

"I know that the [BOOST] pro-
See **BOOST** on Page 4

'\$17.9M left from Tinian divert lease funds'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About \$17.96 million remains un-allocated from the \$21.9 million the Commonwealth Ports Authority had received from the 40-year lease of the U.S. Air Force's divert airfield on Tinian.

According to CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the remaining \$17.96 million will soon be obligated for projects that will generate revenue for CPA. That includes building several warehouses, improvements for resiliency at the commuter terminal, and

See **\$17.9M** on Page 4



AWARD-WINNING MUSICIANS

Yonsei Academy students made a triumphant return to the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam this year by winning five gold and three silver medals at what is billed as the largest music festival in the region. Photo shows them after being presented their medals after a performance at the Micronesia Mall. **Story on Page 7**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Deleon Guerrero

Resolution being readied for late ex-senator

» **Manglona says HR a true public servant of the CNMI for decades**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

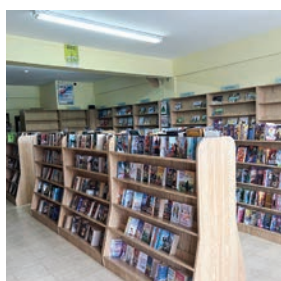
Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) is

preparing a commemorative resolution to acknowledge and honor the services to the Commonwealth of the late former
See **RESOLUTION** on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
186

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The April 17 closure of Bestseller Saipan is greeted with sadness by the local community.

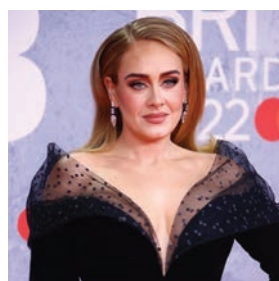
PAGE 11



OVERDRIVE

Lexus introduces an all-electric car, the 2023 Lexus RZ 450e, which offers a host of luxury options.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Adele announced Sunday that she's extending her Las Vegas residency with 34 more dates.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

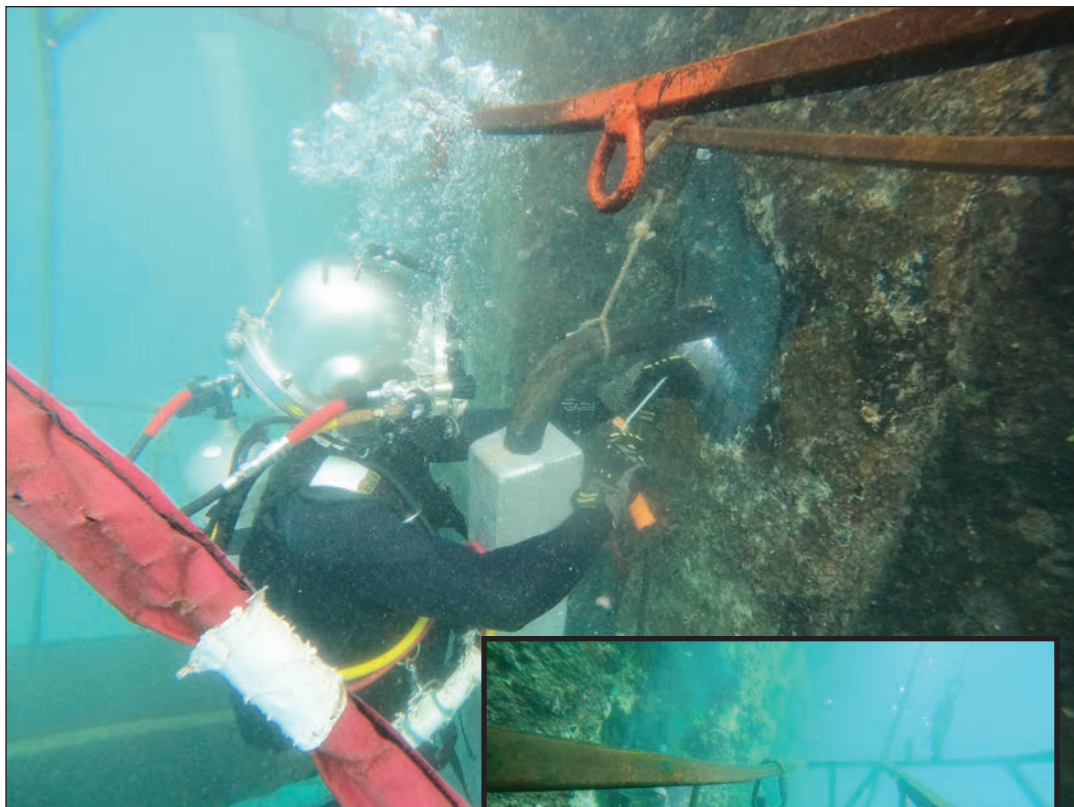


GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

JRM asked for more military vessels to visit NMI



TINIAN PORT REPAIR

TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Equipment Operator 2nd Class Connor Koltes from Underwater Construction Team 2 works on zinc anode installation in the Port of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

U.S. NAVY/LT.J.G. DANIEL NICK, UCT 2



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Palacios-Apatang administration has put in requests with the Joint Region Marianas in Guam for more military vessels to visit the CNMI as well as for more military training exercises to be conducted on Saipan.

Since Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' recent decision to pivot away from the CNMI's reliance on the China tourism market, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs has been setting into motion the revitalization and expansion of military tourism in the CNMI.

According to Danny Aquino, special assistant to the governor for Military Affairs, his office put in a request last week for more military vessels to visit the CNMI to rest and recuperate. The idea is that, with more military vessels coming in for two- to three-day port calls, this will generate business for the CNMI.

"It is the goal of the current administration to encourage visiting vessels. On the governor's side, we have requested more vessels to come and visit here for R&R. One of the biggest problems that we have here is our ports. They're not deep enough for [aircraft] carriers to come in. Instead, we are requesting for destroyers to come in. In a battleship destroyer, you can expect at least 300 to 400 soldiers in there, so that's what we are trying to target. We've already put in the request through Joint Region

Marianas and that's one of the key things the administration is asking for," he said.

In addition, Aquino said the governor has also put in requests for more training exercises to be conducted on Saipan.

"We're trying to bring more trainings to the CNMI. They should be low impact so people shouldn't be aware or alarmed about it. There's going to be no bombing, mostly soldiers practicing land navigation and things like that. The governor and lieutenant governor are doing their part in trying to salvage our economy," he said.

Aquino noted that from July 9, to July 22, Joint Region Marianas will conduct an Innovative Readiness Training exercise on Saipan.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero says he supports the governor's vision.

"We hear from Department of Defense officials that many vessels go to Guam every week. It appears there are ships or submarines porting on Guam for a few days at a time. We look forward to the day when we see more vessels come for R&R because then the soldiers would get off, spend two-three days on the island, maybe do community projects, but the best part for the CNMI is that they will be staying at one of the hotels on the island because, of course, most of the time, these men and women are tired of being on the ships for weeks at a time. That's the kind of military activity we want to see here," he said.

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

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DOL boosts private-public alliances in apprenticeship programs

The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship has approved the CNMI's first Registered Apprenticeship Program in the Accommodation and Food Services Industry. Naked Fish Bar & Grill received its certificate of authentication by USDOL affirming registration to the National Apprenticeship System their RAP for the occupation of cook. The company has started its registered apprenticeship program for one of their staff members to become a cook apprentice.

"Transcends, LLC, dba Naked Fish Bar & Grill is thrilled to be the first restaurant establishment in the CNMI to join the apprenticeship program for the position of cook. This program was made easy to understand by the CNMI Department of Labor staff and managers. Although very

busy themselves, they always accommodated my busy schedule and came down to my place of business rather than require that we meet at their office. Overall, I am pleased with their services and response time whenever I had questions. I strongly encourage all businesses to consider the apprenticeship program or the other various workforce development programs. This is truly a win-win-win situation for all involved," said Joe C. Guerrero Co-owner and general manager.

In the public sector, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's Community Guidance Center was recently approved and registered into the National Apprenticeship System for the occupation of certified drug and alcohol counselor. There are two apprentices enrolled in the program.

Additional approved programs in the CNMI are those of: Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc. for the occupation biomedical equipment technician; Salt & Barber for cosmetologist; and 500 Sails for administrative manager.

Registered Apprenticeship programs provide businesses the opportunity to design programs tailored for their specific business needs. The "Earn While You Learn" training strategy of an apprenticeship program provides an apprentice a paid job while learning new skills both on the job and in the classroom to prepare for a specific occupation that upon completion of the program will earn them a nationally recognized credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Apprenticeship programs involve the collaboration of industry intermediaries, public

workforce system, and education and training institutions. The promotion and successes of the CNMI's Registered Apprenticeship Programs is made possible through the concerted efforts of the DOL

Workforce Investment Agency Apprenticeship State Expansion, Northern Marianas College State Apprenticeship Expansion, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System.

A business looking to invest in their workforce with a registered apprenticeship program can contact the CNMI Apprenticeship Program at 670-664-1711/1712 or email apprenticeship@dol.gov.mp.

Peavey: Claim that CUC ended up replacing whole tank a misunderstanding

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr. described as just a misunderstanding a claim that one of the three water tanks that was damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 just blew a cover at the top, yet CUC ended up getting a grant to replace the whole tank instead of just replacing the cover.

Peavey explained in an interview last week that the new water tank on Tinian was installed because the old tank's damage from Yutu was not just on the cover at the top, but structurally the whole tank.

"The older tank needs to be replaced. But you cannot replace the old one until you [have] the new one," he said.

At a joint hearing by the Senate and House of Representatives' Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications committees last month, Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House PUTC Committee, disclosed that one of the transition team members looked into the water tank project and found that the cover of one of the tanks had been blown off when Yutu hit the CNMI.

Aldan, who also served as leader of the CUC transition

team, said when they came out to assess the project, it was determined that all they needed was to replace the cover.

"It's probably going to cost \$100 or something like that, instead of the million-dollar-tank that we got," Aldan said.

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse S. Palacios disclosed at the hearing that for CUC's three water tanks replacement project, the total allocation from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery grant agreement is around \$20 million for the three tanks combined.

Palacio said the two water tanks are located in Kagman and Dandan on Saipan, and one on Tinian.

Peavey said the new water tank on Tinian was brought in with the understanding that over the period of time CUC would only do temporary repairs to the old one until they can get the new one built. He said they just got the new water tank completed.

"I think there was only a misunderstanding. I don't know where the information came from," Peavey said.

He pointed out that the old water tank was just repaired to maintain service in the area until they could get the new one.

Peavey said the Federal Emergency Management Agency funded the water tank

replacement project on Tinian and Saipan.

According to the CUC transition report, the Tinian water distribution system is supported by two 0.5MG reservoir capacity, four pressure reducing stations, and one deep well currently utilized by the U.S. Department of Defense.

One of the older steel welded tanks has been recently decommissioned in preparation for construction of a new 0.5MG prestressed concrete tank. The new 0.5MG tank is part of three separate tanks that are funded under the NMHC's CDBG-DR Program.

The CUC transition team reported that among the challenges in CUC's Water Division is the construction of a new prestressed concrete storage tank to replace the existing steel welded tank. The new tank will augment the existing 0.5 mg to better serve San Jose Village, Marpo Heights, West San Jose and future homestead development.

At present, the 0.56 MG reservoir at Carolinas Heights provides redundancy and adequate pressure to residents, according to the transition report.

The transition team has underscored the need for constructing a shop or dedicated space for crews to store tools and equipment, conduct mechanical repairs, welding, and fabrication.

Bill that appropriates amusement license revenues OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the exception of one item, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law, a local bill that would appropriate \$800,000 from revenues of amusement licenses collected for Saipan pursuant to Public Law 20-59.

With the exception of one vetoed portion, House Local Bill 23-1, S1 is now Saipan Local Law No. 23-01. The bill was originally passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. The vetoed portion refers to the \$30,000 appropriation to the Board of Parole Saipan Office for its personnel/operations.

In explaining the need to line-item veto this portion, Palacios said that, based on the Attorney General's review, the expenditure authority for the Board of Parole is the chief parole officer, with the approval of the chairperson of the Board of Parole, pursuant to the Commonwealth Code.

The governor said the language in a section of the bill proposes to make the chief of parole officer the expenditure authority, in consultation with the members of the Board of Parole. Palacios said this provision contravenes a Com-

monwealth law that takes precedence over local law.

"As such, I am exercising my authority under the Constitution to line-item veto this appropriation in HLB 23-1,S1," he said.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill; 13 other lawmakers co-sponsored it.

The bill repeals and re-enact a statute pertaining to reservation of revenues generated from the licensing of amusement machines. The funds are derived from the annual fees from the amusement machines within the CNMI.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROBERTO P. ROSAL JR.
Petitioner,
vs.
MARY JOY T. ROSAL
Respondent.

FCD-DI
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 23-0068
**SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on the file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 504974 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2023.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

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Parade disinvites Hawaii lawmaker after pride flag comments

HONOLULU (AP)—The chair of a parade honoring a Native Hawaiian leader and prince said Friday a state lawmaker won't be allowed to participate in the event after he questioned a middle school principal's display of a pride flag supporting LGBTQ+ people.

Kūhiō Lewis, the chairperson of the Prince Kūhiō Parade, said he notified Republican state Rep. Elijah Pierick of the decision in a letter.

"The LGBTQ+ and mahu community is an essential part of the fabric of Hawaii that we all know and cherish," Lewis said in a statement. In Hawaiian language and culture, "mahu" refers to someone with dual male and female spirit and a mixture of gender traits.

The parade is scheduled to be held in Kapolei on Saturday. Lewis is also the CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, which is organizing and financially supporting the parade.

"Rep. Pierick's commentary is hurtful, not aligned to the cultural values that we work to promote, and will serve as a distraction to honoring a true leader of Hawaii,

Prince Kūhiō," Lewis said.

He said Pierick will be removed from the parade lineup. Lewis said he looked forward to educating Pierick on the significance of mahu and LGBTQ+ culture in Hawaii.

Piereck responded, saying: "I appreciate the perspective of the private entity that leads the parade and I honor their decision in who they invite to be in the parade."

Lewis' statement comes after Pierick posted a video on Instagram relaying how he visited Ewa Makai Middle School and saw what he called "a LGBTQ flag" outside of the principal's office and other offices in the school.

"You might be thinking yourself, What does that flag actually represent? What is it conveying to our middle school students? This is what it means: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, plus," he said.

"Are these the kinds of concepts and lifestyles we want to be conveying to our middle school students? Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday all year round?," he said.

He urged people with thoughts or

concerns to contact the school principal, and he posted the school's phone number and her work email address.

"I believe my constituents have the right to know what's going on in the school. What kind of symbols are being promoted and what kind of messages are being conveyed to the students?" Pierick said.

Piereck is a first-term legislator representing Kunia and Honouliuli. His district doesn't include the school but is nearby.

State Sen. Kurt Fevella, a Republican whose Ewa Beach district includes the school, posted a video on Facebook asking Pierick to apologize. He urged people to vote Pierick out when he is up for re-election in two years.

Fevella said teenagers contemplate suicide, drugs and alcohol abuse because they don't feel safe at school, at home and in their communities. He said they need to feel safe.

"We are losing our children, Facebook fam, because we get people like that. We get people like that judging our community," Fe-

vella said.

Pierick said he appreciated Fevella's thoughts and perspectives.

"He stands on the foundation of the First Amendment of freedom of speech. So I want to advocate his ability to speak freely. I encourage the community of Ewa Beach to watch original video, and make the conclusion for themselves of what they think the message is conveying," Pierick said.

The Prince Kūhiō Parade honors Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, who was born in 1871.

He went into exile after the U.S.-backed overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893. But he returned years later and in 1902 became a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress, where he served for two decades.

He is credited with spearheading a law setting aside 200,000 acres of land to create homelands for Native Hawaiians.

March 26 is a state holiday in his honor, which will be observed on Monday.

DROWNS

From Page 1

lic Safety has yet to release an official report of the incident, but a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services news release confirmed the incident.

According to the source, the four men had gone spearfishing at the Lower Base beach last Saturday evening. After a while, three of the four decided to venture into deeper waters. The source stated that the victim decided to stay near the shoreline.

Later that evening, when the three men returned to shore, they were unable to find their companion. The men said they went back out into the ocean and searched for their friend, but their search proved fruitless. The men decided to call authorities soon after.

According to the source, DPS Boating Safety officers recovered

the body of the victim on Sunday.

In a separate news release about the search and rescue mission, DFEMS states that a female caller reported an overdue spearfisherman at the Lower Base beach, behind the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Power Plant, on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at approximately 12:01am. She reported that four men had gone out and only three returned from their dive.

According to dispatch, at around 6:23am, the DPS Boating Safety Section retrieved a speargun west of the power plant.

"Sadly at 7:46am, the Boating Safety Section recovered the overdue spearfisherman and brought the individual to the Smiling Cove Marina where they met with the family. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services expresses its sincerest condolences to the family of the spearfisherman," states the news release.

BOOST

From Page 1

gram is over and we are looking at recoupment of funds," said Norita in response to questions during her confirmation hearing Thursday.

She said her initial thought on the BOOST Program was that it was intended to help the business community and that she sympathizes with honest small businesses that did apply for assistance and didn't receive any. She said the program was tarnished by its mismanagement.

"It was just unfortunate the way it was handled and I hope that those businesses that did receive aid use it to the best of their ability to help the CNMI recover," Norita said.

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, said it's good to hear that there are plans to recover the funds from individuals who established businesses right before the BOOST deadline and were not im-

pacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We got a lot of calls on what's happening with the BOOST investigation. I think the public needs to hear from those in positions to update them," Babauta said.

She said one of the biggest concerns they get now is if the Legislature is going for recoupment of the funds.

"We don't have the authority to do so. I'm glad that you say that," said the senator, referring to Norita's disclosure that they are working on recoupment.

Both the current House of Representatives and Senate have already decided not to take up the previous legislative committees' investigation on the BOOST program.

Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for the 23rd Legislature, had previously stated that the committee agreed that it would not conduct additional legislative hearings on the BOOST program, given that several criminal investigations into the program have already been initiated.

Babauta previously stated that she has no plans at this time for her Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, to continue the oversight investigation into the BOOST Program.

Babauta said they have already provided all 4,000 pages of BOOST-related documents received from their House committee subpoenas to the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Auditor, and appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The 22nd House Ways and Means Committee and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee jointly recommended that further legislative investigation into the BOOST Program is needed, and should continue in the 23rd Legislature.

BOOST is a project of the previous Office of the Governor, the Department of Finance, and Department of Commerce that aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

Through BOOST, financial assistance was provided to local businesses and non-profit organizations in the form of grants and business coaching.

\$17.9M

From Page 1

accommodations for future direct international flights, to include construction related to the Transportation Security Agency and Customs and Border Protection requirements, she said.

As for allegations that CPA has expended most of the divert lease funds on the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, King-Hinds said that's far from the truth.

"The rumor that divert lease proceeds have been expended on Saipan is false. One million dollars, from the funds apportioned to the

seaport, have been expended on the Tinian marina beautification project, which will soon be complete. For the record, CPA obligates and expends these funds in consultation with the Tinian leadership," she said.

For example, King-Hinds said, a total of \$2,863,450 have been obligated to the Tinian International Airport parking lot expansion project, the architecture and engineering (A&E) design for the CBP and TSA expansion projects, and purchase of equipment to fix and maintain the Tinian airport runway. An additional \$74,000 has been expended on administra-

tive costs, which include the actual divert negotiation meetings, construction meetings and advertising for projects directly connected to Tinian projects, she said.

Meanwhile, addressing the concerns about the Tinian International Airport and its progress, King-Hinds said the Tinian airport is still an international airport but, as of now, it is only being utilized by commuter airlines after Tinian Dynasty & Casino closed down.

"It is called the Tinian International Airport, but it is currently only used by commuter flights," she said.



Babauta



King-Hinds



DeLeon Guerrero

senator Herman R. DeLeon Guerrero, who recently passed away in Guam, reportedly due to heart attack.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that the family of the late senator is busy preparing for the funeral and the Senate counsel still needs to reach out to the family for more information to finish the commemorative resolution when everything is done with the funeral.

Former House of Representatives speaker Pedro R. DeLeon Guerrero confirmed in an email yesterday that his 84-year-old brother, Herman, passed away last March 11. He said his brother's remains will arrive on Saipan today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm. Mass and funeral services are scheduled on March 31 at 3pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Pedro DeLeon Guerrero said he does not know exactly the cause of his brother's death as he himself is in Honolulu for a hip replacement surgery.

"I had a phone conversation with him the night before, just a few hours before his passing," the former speaker said.

Pedro DeLeon Guerrero said he

learned of his brother's death early in the morning in Honolulu.

"I was in great shock and pain, with disbelief that my brother Herman is gone," he said.

Due to his health and medical condition, Pedro DeLeon Guerrero said he is saddened and hurt that he will not be on Saipan for his brother's funeral to bid him farewell.

"However, I am very happy and appreciative for the many families, friends, and people who have expressed their condolences, love, and prayers to my brother Herman and his family," he said.

Herman DeLeon Guerrero, known by his friends as "HR," was elected to the first CNMI Senate in 1977.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that he was Herman R. DeLeon Guerrero's colleague in the 6th and 7th Senate, beginning in 1988.

Prior to that, Herman R. DeLeon Guerrero served in the Saipan Municipal Council and the Congress of Micronesia, Manglona said.

"Sen. HR was a true public servant of the Northern Marianas for decades. One of his impressive virtues, I remember vividly, was his willingness and ability to reach across the political divides to promote the public interest in the legislation he advocated," the senator said.

Humanities Council honors late Edward DLG Pangelinan



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council presents a resolution to the family of the late Edward DLG Pangelinan last Friday at the American Memorial Park theater in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council presented last Friday a commemorative resolution that recognizes the crucial role the late Edward DLG Pangelinan played as one of the founding fathers of the CNMI.

In a ceremony at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center theater in Garapan, NMHC officials presented Resolution 2023-01 to representatives of Pangelinan's family to honor the late statesman's many contributions to the CNMI and his crucial role in crafting the Covenant agreement in 1976 that forged the relationship between the CNMI and the United States.

NMHC sought to honor Pangelinan's many contribu-

tions to the CNMI through the resolution, which they presented to his brother, Pedro DLG Pangelinan.

After the ceremony, Pedro DLG Pangelinan said the NMHC recognition is quite moving, and that he knows all his brother's accomplishments by heart. "He brought a lot of things through being a part of the United States family. He brought an opportunity for our younger generation in the future."

The tribute was a part of the "Crafting the Covenant" event hosted by NMHC during the islandwide celebration of Covenant Day last week. Edward DLG Pangelinan was one of CNMI's leaders who was heavily involved in the crafting and advocacy of the Covenant to establish the Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America.

Friday's event also consisted of the release and screening of Episode 1 in a series of documentaries about the history behind Covenant Day. The documentary, called Crafting of the Covenant, has been several years in the making, with Episode 1 being about the Trust Territory government.

After the documentary's screening, a panel discussion was held with Manuel Atalig Sablan and Pedro A. Tenorio, who were also involved with the crafting of the Covenant. They discussed the history leading up to the establishment of the CNMI's relationship with the U.S. NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan directed the questions.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Small craft advisory in effect

A small craft advisory is now in effect until 6pm today, Tuesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, seas of 7 to 10 feet are present in Marianas coastal waters. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Elevated winds are expected through last night. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid boating in these conditions. (PR)

Power service interruption in Kagman II

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Friday March 31, 2023, in Kagman II, from 9am to 1pm, affecting Chopak Drive.

This will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace a defective primary power pole and a burnt primary power pole along Chopak Drive. No water well, wastewater facility, or traffic light will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

GCC sets public hearing on GED test fee hike

The Guam Community College will hold public meetings on April 6, 2023,

from 3pm to 4pm and on April 7, 2023, from 3pm to 4pm at Guam Community College Allied Health Building, Room 3108. The meeting will allow for public questions and comments regarding the required fee increase, by GED Testing Service LLC, for the administration of the GED testing through GCC. The current fee rate has remained unchanged since Sept. 8, 2015.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting virtually can do so at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83703207982?pwd=aWhXaWlicHp5WDFTTDNJODZsTzZSZz09>

For more information on the meeting, call (671) 735-5640 or email learningforlife@guamcc.edu. (PR)



Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/28/2023

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after April 14, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Construction of Lotus Homes, LLC. Multi Family/Apartment Project (GAP FILLER)	The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the continuing need for affordable rental housing for our low-income families and especially for those who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.	Gualo Rai, Saipan Lot No. TR.22642 NEW-2	\$8,000,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **April 14, 2023, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

PCG Agana to hold consular mission on Saipan on April 1-3

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will conduct its consular outreach mission on Saipan from April 1 to 3 at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe, Saipan.

All ePassport applicants are requested to secure their appointment slots through the Global Appointment Online Appointment System by logging in at passport.gov.ph and choosing the following site:

Region: North America
Country: United States of America
Site: Agana PCG Outreach in Saipan

Applicants who need further assistance in using the online appointment system may send an email to the Philippine Consulate General at pcgagana@gmail.com or contact Annamae Adana

Date	Time	Slots
01 April 2023	9:00AM – 10:00AM	20
	10:01AM – 11:00AM	20
	11:01AM – 12:00PM	20
	1:01PM – 2:00PM	20
	2:01PM – 3:00PM	20
	3:01PM – 4:00PM	20
	4:01PM – 5:00PM	20
02 April 2023	9:00AM – 10:00AM	20
	10:01AM – 11:00AM	20
	11:01AM – 12:00PM	20
	1:01PM – 2:00PM	20
	2:01PM – 3:00PM	20
	3:01PM – 4:00PM	20
	4:01PM – 5:00PM	20
03 April 2023	9:00AM – 10:00AM	20
	10:01AM – 11:00AM	20
	11:01AM – 12:00PM	20
	1:01PM – 2:00PM	20
	2:01PM – 3:00PM	20
	3:01PM – 4:00PM	20
	4:01PM – 5:00PM	20

at (670) 2854388.

Due to the current health protocols being implemented on Saipan, the following shall be observed and implemented:

1. Only passport applicants who have secured their appointment through GOAS will be allowed at the venue. No escort(s) will be allowed inside, except for persons with disabilities and under-aged applicants;
2. Passport applicants are reminded to bring the print-out of their GOAS-generated passport application form on the date and time of their appointment;
3. Applicants are advised to show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule;
4. Wearing of mask and physical distancing will be strictly observed;
5. Passport applicants should wear proper attire (i.e., with collar and sleeves) for data capture purposes; and,
6. Ensure submission of complete requirements by checking at www.aganapcg.dfa.gov.ph.

For consular services, including passport renewal, that require civil registration documents (e.g. birth certificate and marriage certificate), only documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority or its predecessor, National Statistics Office, will be accepted.

The Consular Outreach team will also offer other consular services such as notarization/legalization, civil registry, and acceptance of dual citizenship applications. (PCG)



U.S. Army Spc Peter Raymond of the Guam National Guard visits the Gill-Baza Subdivision of Yigo, Guam during Operation Homebound Mar. 10, 2023.



U.S. Army Spc Peter Raymond of the Guam National Guard visits a family during Operation Homebound in Yigo, Guam Mar. 10, 2023.

Name: **KONRAD SIEWIERSKI, JINGJIAN SU, SHAOJI HE**
Address: SAIPAN, MP 96950

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: ZICHENG SU
An Incompetent Person

By: **KONRAD SIEWIERSKI, JINGJIAN SU, SHAOJI HE**
Petitioner

FCD-GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 23-0046

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the above-named by **KONRAD SIEWIERSKI, JINGJIAN SU AND SHAOJI HE**, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 17th day of April, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

By MARK SCOTT
Guam National Guard

“Welcome to the Gill-Breeze Subdivision.”

The crew of four Public Health employees and two Guam National Guardsmen are part of Operation Homebound, an outreach program conceived during the COVID-19 Pandemic to

U.S. Army Spc Peter Raymond of the Guam National Guard, center, signs up Rachel Bessy, right, for her COVID-19 booster during Operation Homebound in Sinajana, Guam Mar. 10, 2023.

connect Guam’s underserved communities with social services, Medicare and Medicaid enrollment, COVID tests and vaccinations, and more.

With no running water or sewage, the Gill-Breeze Subdivision in northern Guam qualifies as underserved. Many of the homes are open-air structures made of wood and tin. Residents must haul water or use homemade catchment systems for drinking, cooking, bathing, and make-shift outhouses. Many of these residents hail from the Federated States of Micronesia, with barriers in language and culture further widening the gap to healthcare access.

Barriers that the team from DPHSS and the Guam Guard are here to crush.

Spc Peter Raymond, infantryman for Ayuyu Company, 1-294th Infantry Regiment, Guam National Guard, steps down with his clipboard and gets to work. Raymond is a native of Chuuk, one of four states that make up the FSM along with Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap. With Julita Samuel, community program assistant from DPHSS taking lead, Raymond approaches a nearby family.

“Rannalem,” says Raymond, a traditional Chuukese greeting. The family smiles but says they’re busy planning a Christian rosary and to come back later.

So the convoy moves on, as they have for almost one year.

Throughout the day, we visit underserved families across the island. Some are new patients, and some are scheduled to receive subsequent doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Families gather at our stops to speak with Raymond and Samuel and sign up for public health services. One family rallies others nearby to come and get vaccinated. At the end of the day, the team has educated over 20 people, and vaccinated over a dozen more.

Operation Homebound has connected hundreds of residents to public health resources, according to DPHSS.

Raymond is proud of the work he’s done but gives credit to those who have gone before him. “I have to thank Sgt. Lori Chugrad and Spc Salafan Kachuo for being the original members of this mission and encouraging me.” He was also thankful for the partnership of the DPHSS, who treated him like family.

Raymond declined an interview for this article, opting to give a simple quote. “I’m just glad to do anything I can do to help,” said Raymond.

Yonsei Academy students win 5 gold, 3 silver medals at TBMF



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The award-winning delegation of Yonsei Academy made a triumphant return to the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam this year.

Yonsei Academy students made a triumphant return to the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam this year by winning five gold and three silver medals at what is billed as the largest music festival in the region.

The Saipan-based academy fielded eight students to this year's festival and all eight students passed the initial auditions and made it to the finals. The Yonsei delegation consisted of Jennifer Woo, 15 years old, Marianas High School; Olivia Hwang, 17, Saipan International School; Seiyul Hong, 16, MHS; Abbie Kim, 14, MHS; Jireh Wang, 16, Agape Christian School; Chealza Navarro, (15, Mount Carmel School; Eric Lai, 17, Grace Christian Academy; and Peter Peng, 15, ACS.

Finally returning last March 2 to 11, 2023, after being put on hold for three years due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Tumon Bay Music Festival is the largest music festival to

be held in Guam annually and draws musicians from various places such as Saipan, Guam, and Japan.

There are divisions of choir, solo, ensemble, jazz, band, and orchestra and all participants play together, regardless of genre, age, and ethnicity.

Since this year's competition was the first in three years, there were far more participants, which means the organizers had to eliminate some participants through audition. All of Yonsei Academy students made it to the finals. On March 4, 2023, 18 finalists participated in the competition at Micronesia Mall, Guam.

"...My [students] have grown while the competition has not been held due to COVID for three years. However, unlike before, the situation where [they] had to go through auditions made me nervous. But I could expect good results because I trusted my students and knew how hard they had

been practicing. ...We made it. ...I believed in my students," said Jihye Yun, director of Yonsei Academy.

Eight Yonsei Academy students won five gold medals and three silver medals. In particular, five of the seven gold medals for the entire piano session were won by Yonsei Academy students.

One of the gold medalists, Olivia Hwang, thanked the judges and coordinators who recognized her efforts. "I'd also like to thank my parents, Mrs. Yun, Dr. Ron, Ms. Milli, and Ms. Melisha for their help throughout this process. It took almost a year for me to hold a gold medal in the ceremony and feel proud of myself. Your faith has been a source of inspiration and encouragement for me, and I want to thank everyone for providing me with this opportunity. Thank you and I will be striving to achieve another gold medal for TBMF 2024!"

Navarro, who was a first-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some of the winning students of Yonsei Academy are presented their awards after performing at the Micronesia Mall as part of the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

time gold medalist in the competition, said, "TBMF 2023 was a great experience for me, especially as someone who only started playing piano a few years ago. I wasn't expecting to receive gold, but I'm proud I was able to pull it off. I was really nervous before the performance, so I had to practice the piece many times in my head. With that, I am very grateful to my family, friends, and teacher for helping me throughout the competition."

Abbie Kim, who won a gold medal at the 2020 TBMF and won another gold this year, said, "I am glad that I was able to get a gold medal [in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival]. Before the performance, I was really nervous because I thought I didn't have enough practice. Also I heard that this year's music festival was [stricter] than the last time. So, I didn't have a lot of confidence. Since the last time I got a gold medal [was when I was a 6th grader], I felt like I had to get a gold this time too or else I would be disappointed and upset. ...After a long period of anxiousness, when they finally announced my gold medal, I was really glad and relieved. However, even though I got a gold medal, I think I should be humble and still practice a lot. I enjoyed this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival because of the final results and the beautiful music I was able to perform. I hope I can keep up my streak of gold medals in the future. Also, I will improve my piano techniques so that I can make my academy, Yonsei Piano, and my teacher, Jihye Yun, seen positively by many people." (PR/Saipan Tribune)

Promote your business in the military market

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, together with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs and the Marianas Visitors Authority, are inviting the business community and the public to join them for a presentation by the Joint Region Marianas on its Morale Welfare Recreation program as they share information on what the program is about and how businesses can promote and gain exposure within the military market.

The presentation will

take place today, March 28, 2023, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 10am to 11:30am. Doors will open at 9:30 am.

SCC, CBMA, and MVA encourage all its members and clients to attend this presentation as it will provide exposure on the services and products your business offers. The types of businesses that fit the requirements of the program are hotel accommodations, car rentals, leisure activities, water sporting activ-

ities, restaurants, and outdoor activities.

The JRM MWR presenting team will be conducting one-to-one sessions with businesses to answer any additional inquiries regarding the program and to better understand the packages that the businesses will offer in the military market.

For more information, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at (670) 234-7150 or send an email to contactus@saipanchamber.org. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Xi has been an apologist for Putin. Will he also be his lethal arms supplier?

For Ukraine, the war against Russia is existential. Defeat means extinction as a sovereign nation, and the destruction of Ukrainian identity.

Russia's troubles, however, are self-inflicted. By invading Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin forced the West to impose a series of harsh sanctions aimed at squeezing the Kremlin economically, and ultimately, forcing a withdrawal from Ukraine.

The punishment that the administration of President Joe Biden and NATO allies imposed on Russia's economy would have achieved the West's aims, if it weren't for Putin's benefactor and bosom buddy, Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Xi's trip to Moscow this week cemented China's role as an economic lifeline for Russia. The Kremlin has been able to circumvent the West's price cap on Russian oil by turning to Beijing's unquenchable thirst for crude. By becoming China's biggest source of oil, Russia actually made more money on oil exports last year compared with 2021.

Russia also has offset the loss of natural gas exports to Europe by selling more natural gas to China, though this week Xi was careful to hold off on agreeing to Putin's plan to complete a new pipeline to deliver natural gas to China by 2030. Computer chips, raw materials and other dual-use products that Russia used to acquire from the West are now supplied by China, along with a few other countries.

The U.S. shouldn't be surprised by China's financial buoying of Russia and the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The energy China is buying from Russia comes at a discount. And, as was made clear by Xi's visit to Moscow, the bedrock of China and Russia's strategic friendship remains their mutual perception of America as a hegemonic enemy bent on global dominance.

That friendship is bound to strengthen, and that's something the U.S. and its NATO allies must gauge carefully and game-plan for in months and years to come.

In the meantime, the West's immediate concern centers on the potential for China to replenish Putin's depleted arsenal of lethal weapons.

That's a red line for Western allies, and crossing it would likely mean a raft of U.S.-led sanctions imposed on Beijing. China denies it's even considering that prospect, but it's already providing Moscow with dual-use technology.

A decision by China to start supplying Russia with lethal weapons would dramatically change the dynamic of the war in Ukraine.

Putin has failed badly as a commander-in-chief, allowing the outmanned and underequipped Ukrainian armed forces to notch a series of pivotal battlefield victories over the course of the war. Early in the war Russian forces were at Kyiv's doorstep—now they've been pushed back into eastern Ukraine, where inch-by-inch warfare is reminiscent of World War I battles.

It has become a war of attrition, but that suits Putin. He has time on his side. As he has already done, he can send thousands more troops into eastern Ukraine as cannon fodder. And if he is resupplied by China's massive military arsenal, he can extend the conflict to a point in which Ukraine can no longer sustain

See Xi on Page 9



They won't ban Black history, but teachers will be afraid to teach it

There is only one elementary school classmate whose name I remember almost eight decades later.

His name was Arthur.

He was Black. He and the only other Black child, a girl, sat together at the back of our third-grade classroom in Spring Valley, N.Y. He dressed very neatly and almost never spoke up, but he was constantly being picked on by the others.

There came a day that I did, too.

Something was missing. I called out, "Maybe Arthur took it." There was no reason to say that, except that Arthur seemed to get blamed for everything.

I did not know why.

Now, it's obvious.

I will take to my grave the guilty memory of the fear and hurt on his face.

I managed to stow it in the back of my mind, not thinking about it for the next dozen years or so, while I grew to flatter myself that I was free of prejudices.

What made me recall the incident was a provocative assignment from a remarkable sociology professor at Florida State University, Lewis M. Killian.

He taught a popular course on race relations. Classroom debates were very lively. Florida was still fighting desegregation. It would be another six years before FSU enrolled any Black students.

It came time to write a term paper. We were to describe in confidence everything we had ever felt about Blacks. All the way back.

Killian assured us that nobody but him would read those papers. He never discussed them in class.

The exercise had been, as he intended, a powerful teaching moment. It was for me.

It exposed the insidious influence of latent prejudice even among people who think they're above it.

No one in my family had ever bad-mouthed Black people.

I can't remember any of those other children doing it overtly.

And yet their latent and not-so-latent biases came out in their treatment of Arthur.

And, consequently, in mine.

I first wrote about this experience in 1992, in the context of a school desegregation issue.

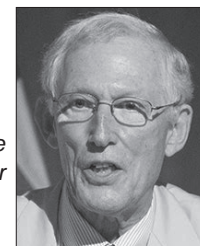
I am writing it now because of Gov. Ron DeSantis. If his self-styled Stop-WOKE Act had been in force then, I probably could have sued Lew Killian for making me feel badly about myself, and he would have been fired.

More likely, he would not have taught the course at all, and he would have left Florida as soon as the Legislature passed the bill.

By **MARTIN DYCKMAN**

South Florida Sun Sentinel

Martin Dyckman is an editorial writer for the Sun Sentinel. He is a retired reporter, editor and columnist for the Tampa Bay Times.



It would have been as impossible then as it is now to teach American history, civics or race relations without mentioning the three-century history of anti-Black racism in America, how it took root as an excuse for slavery, and how it continues to affect how Americans treat each other today.

The DeSantis law (HB 7 in 2022) is a baited trap for anyone who would try to teach any of that honestly.

Consider what the law says teachers must avoid. It applies even to the sensitivity training programs at private businesses.

No one must be made to feel that "a person, by virtue of his or her race, color, sex or national origin, bears personal responsibility for and must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress because of actions in which the person played no part committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex."

That draws a blurry line easily crossed, as U.S. District Judge Mark Walker recognized in his 138-page order banning its enforcement on college campuses—an order the DeSantis administration is appealing. Walker called that part of the law "positively dystopian."

DeSantis' alternative history and censorship are prevailing in public schools. A book about the baseball hero Roberto Clemente, who died in a plane crash on a humanitarian mission, was off Duval County's shelves for a year because it mentioned, altogether truthfully, that he had experienced racism.

As a privileged white person, and as a patriot, I damn well should feel responsible, guilty and anguished for not having done enough to make the laws truly colorblind or to make race prejudice as taboo as profanity in a house of worship.

Killian was born and raised in Georgia and had an accent to prove it. He was faculty adviser to the Kappa Alpha fraternity chapter at FSU, which I made fun of in a student newspaper column for the ways it celebrated the Confederacy. When a student in his class said I had no right to write such things, Killian rebuked him sharply.

"Don't you ever say in my class that someone doesn't have a right to write something," Killian responded.

How far backward have we gone since then?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A love for reading begins at home

» Practical tips for incorporating reading into your daily routine

Reading has taken a backseat in today’s fast-paced and technology-driven world. With so many distractions like social media challenging our attention, it can be easy to overlook the benefits of reading. From captivating stories to informative non-fiction, reading can broaden our minds and transport us to new worlds. Developing a love for reading can be challenging in today’s modern world, so a love for reading should begin with early exposure and encouragement, and where better to start than at home?

Research shows that children who grow up in homes with books and reading materials will likely develop a love for reading and excel academically. It is essential to start cultivating a love for reading at home.

Reading at home can significantly impact children’s academic performance, personal growth, and development. It’s not just a pastime or entertainment, but a valuable tool that can positively impact individuals and families.

Here are some practical tips on fostering a reading-friendly environment for you and your family:

1 Make reading a family activity.
One way to encourage reading in your family is to make it a

group activity. Set aside time for reading daily and make it a family affair. It could be in the form of a family book club or simply reading aloud to each other. Encouraging your children to read can teach them a love of reading and give you all something to talk about. This can create a particular moment of connection and shared experience that can help to strengthen relationships and build trust.

2 Create a reading-friendly environment.
Another way to promote reading in your family is to create an environment conducive to reading. Designate a comfortable and quiet space in your home, and ensure it is well-lit and stocked with various reading materials. This could include books, magazines, and newspapers. The serene space can also help reduce stress and anxiety and provide a much-needed break from technology, screens, or a long day at work.

3 Encourage your children to read what interests them.
To make reading more enjoyable for your children, encourage them to read what interests them. Allow them to choose their reading materials, including comics or graphic novels. This can help develop a love of reading and a sense of ownership over reading choices.

By ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rosemarie D. Embile is a teacher at Northern Marianas International School.



4 Make use of technology to your advantage.
Incorporating technology can make reading more accessible and enjoyable for your family. There are many e-books and audiobooks available online that your family can access on their devices. Consider downloading an app or using an online reading platform tailored to your family’s interests. In this way, it can balance digital and traditional methods of reading.

5 Celebrate reading achievements.
Recognizing and celebrating your family’s reading achievements can motivate them to read more. Consider setting up a reading challenge or competition and reward your family with something special for reaching their reading goals. This could be anything from a family outing to a special treat.

6 Lead by example.
One of the best ways to encourage your family to read is to lead by example. Make reading a part of your family routine and talk about what you read with your family. When your children see that you enjoy reading, they will likely develop a love for books.

Making reading a part of your family can be a fun and rewarding experience. Creating a reading-friendly environment, allowing your children to read what interests them, using technology, celebrating reading achievements, and leading by example can help imbue a love of reading in a family that will last a lifetime. Encouraging your kids or your family to read is one of the greatest gifts you can share with them, as it opens up a new world of knowledge and enjoyment.

March Right Out Write ‘Call and Response’

19th to 21st century poems on time space continuum

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



“If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don’t understand quantum mechanics.”
—Richard P. Feynman, professor of theoretical physics

For my last entry in March 2023 during International and CNMI Women’s Month, here is a poem by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). She was a reclusive 19th-century poet who was born, lived, and died in the house she was born in. Interested readers can find many books and articles online written about her. She had only 10 poems published in her lifetime from over 1,800 written.

She wrote her poems down on paper and hand-sewed them into book form, which were found after she passed away. I have left the poem as she wrote it with capitalization and punctuation intact and in place.

This poem, “Forever – is composed of Nows –” was mentioned on a World Science Festival TV program hosted by Brian Greene (available on You Tube), the host of a series of Science lectures on current cosmology: the theory of relativity, the Big Bang, particle physics, and quantum theory.

A panel member, either Leonard Susskind (father of string theory) or Alan Guth (theoretical physicist and cosmologist), when asked to define “quantum theory,” said this poem by Emily Dickinson was close to a definition of it. I looked the poem up and accepted it as a “call” for understanding space-time continuum, which I’ve been studying since reading Stephen Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time*, both the original and revised versions. Emily would have known nothing about that, but she was thinking and writing about literal time, space, and the future.

Most leading 20th and 21st-century cosmology scientists and particle physicists say that Quantum Theory, when it may be combined with Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, will be the “Theory of Everything.” Many are working on it but most agree that Quantum Theory is very difficult to

define. Interested readers may check out more about our universe with books written by Brian Greene, Sean Carroll, and Stephen Hawking, among others, to learn about our universe.

They may also check out wonderful unrelated poetry of Emily Dickinson.

This is a “call and response” poem. That is a group of poems that contain an earlier poem—the “call”—and one or more poems written in either “response” to or as variations of the earlier poem. So here is Emily Dickinson “calling” out from the 19th century and my “response” in the 21st century. I composed my poem as I read her poem line by line. For me she is the Queen of Outer Space.

Forever – is Composed of Nows

By EMILY DICKINSON

Forever - is composed of Nows –
‘Tis not a different time –
Except for the Infiniteness –
And Latitude of Home –

From this – experienced Here -
Remove the Dates – to These –
Let Months dissolve in Further Months –
And Years – exhale in Years –

Without Debate – or Pause –
Or Celebrated Days –
No different our years would be
From Anno Dominies

Quantum Neverland Forever

Never decomposes at a steady pace inside space
its Longitude curves inside all universal light
to that proof there light years move from those
minutes that push to solve no less no more

Light years inhale and exhale ahead of time and go
on in a daily basis they flow through with photons
everything quickly changes as string theory ranges
in a microscopic Planck length an Annus Horribilis

Some things we’ll never know but we have to grow
tiny particles responsible for what we think and do
consciousness is particles moving through our mind
with an exquisite arrangement as opposed to a rock

Thus we receive all these in constant communion
as particles construct the very state of our union.

XI
From Page 8

the fight.

Unlike Putin, China has carefully calibrated what it says and does during the Ukraine conflict. It has parroted the Kremlin’s propaganda that NATO aggression toward Russia over the years set the stage for the war in Ukraine. But Beijing also has been careful to not openly support Putin’s brutal invasion of a sovereign nation. China has consistently tried to portray itself as a neutral bystander in the conflict.

Astonishingly, it has recently claimed the role of peace broker, calling for a cease-fire and the onset of talks to end the war. That can never happen, of course, as long as Russian troops remain on Ukrainian territory.

“A cease-fire now is, again, effectively the ratification of Russian conquest,” John Kirby, spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council, said last week. “It would, in effect, recognize Russia’s gains and its attempt to conquer its neighbor’s territory by force, allowing Russian troops to continue to occupy sovereign Ukrainian territory.”

But the question remains: Are there circumstances in which Beijing would accede to the Kremlin’s desire for lethal weapons replenishment? Such a decision could become much likelier, if, for example, Russian forces in Ukraine were on the verge of complete defeat.

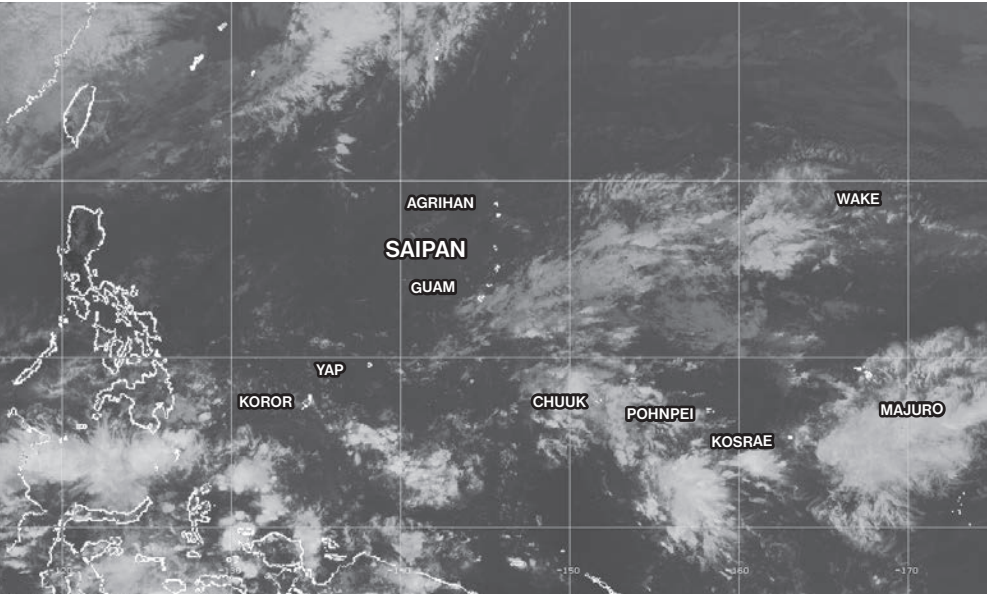
Still, it would be a massive miscalculation on Xi’s part—China may have a fundamental disdain for the U.S. and what it stands for, but it values deeply its ascent and place within the global economy. That’s not something Xi is likely to risk, even for the fellow autocrat in Moscow whom he likes to call his “dear friend.”

But if Xi decides to cross that red line, the U.S. and its Western allies would be wise to ramp up strong sanctions against Beijing, along with a steady flow of weapons and military equipment that sustains Ukraine’s fight for survival.

Xi’s friendship with Putin may run deep, but the West’s commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty must run deeper.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Scattered showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:55 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters, especially near Guam and Saipan. Lightning data indicates that some of the showers near Saipan are thunderstorms, as well as some of the showers to our east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:02 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:36 AM	11:54 AM
Thursday	-	1:27 AM	12:47 PM
Friday	-	2:15 AM	1:40 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	2:31 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	70° / 52°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	69° / 42°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	70° / 67°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 72°	
London	Light Rain	48° / 47°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 49°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 77°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	73° / 59°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°	
New York	Rain	58° / 42°	
Osaka	Sunny	64° / 41°	
Paris	Cloudy	55° / 47°	
Busan	Sunny	63° / 48°	
Rome	Sunny	63° / 41°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	78° / 54°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	61° / 37°	
Tokyo	Showers	57° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Showers	61° / 43°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:47 AM	High Tide	1.54	
6:41 AM	Low Tide	1.23	
11:08 AM	High Tide	1.54	
7:06 PM	Low Tide	0.07	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Saipan bookworms saddened by Bestseller closure

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The April 17 closure of Saipan's lone bookstore, Bestseller Saipan, was greeted with sadness by the local community, who also reminisced about the local brick and mortar bookstore that originally opened in Joeten Susupe in 1994 before moving to Middle Road next to McDonald's Chalan Kiya.

Local historian Don A. Farrel said Bestseller Saipan ceasing operations is a shame not only for local authors like him, but for the entire island community as well.

"Bestseller has served as virtually the sole-source for Saipan's readers, especially school teachers and serious students. Bestseller has been carrying my books, as well as those of other local authors, since I can remember. The loss of Bestseller means that we might not be able to sell enough books to pay for the creation of new books. That hurts."

He then sends his best regards to "May Camacho, the owner, who must have dreaded making this announcement, as well as to her dedicated local employees."

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero was shocked after learning that Bestseller Saipan will be no more starting next month.

"Notwithstanding how much the pandemic lockdowns accelerated our continuing transition to digital content and online distribution, there is something to be said about the in-person interaction, tactile experience, and personal touch that book stores provide. All will be sorely missed with the closure of Bestseller," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he really frequented Bestseller Saipan a lot more when it was still conveniently located in Susupe.

"I bought books there about 2 or 3 times a year, not nearly as much as I should have. I miss and more frequently visited their prior location at Joeten. I liked going in to browse books and magazines."

Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder said it's always sad to see a mainstay establishment like Bestseller Saipan leave.

"As an educator, it is even sadder to see a bookstore close. We need more bastions of free thought in these uncertain times and this of-



ten begins with a good story that can move the heart and soul of the reader," he said.

Because of Bestseller Saipan closing shop, SIS is also one vendor option down when it comes to purchasing books.

"Our school often placed orders through Bestseller Saipan. I guess the only options now are online stores and, while this can be a good price, it doesn't help the economy of the CNMI at all."

Lawyer Colin Thompson said Bestseller Saipan has been a home for local book authors for nearly two decades.

"It's sad news to hear that Bestseller is closing. It's going to have a negative impact on our local authors and kids who like to go to Bestseller."

Saipan Community School principal Amanda Dunn said the closure of the island's only bookstore is a big loss to the community.

"As a mother of two little ones, Bestseller is a little wonderland of books for them. As we enter to get new books for a special occasion or friend's birthday they are filled with excitement and I am going to miss having that here on island."

She said personally she buys books at Bestseller for special books when her family travels and at Christmas and birthdays.

"For work it's already very difficult to get three on island quotes for procurement when

it comes to classroom book sets. I know many students and teachers who are going to be heartbroken," she said.

Public School System interim Federal Program officer Jacqueline Che waxed nostalgic when word got out that Bestseller Saipan was closing.

"I will miss Bestseller because the first book I ever purchased with my own money was from Bestseller (formerly located in Joeten). Bittersweet. We don't have any options, especially for people who prefer to get in their car and visit a local brick and mortar bookstore. There's always the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library..." she said.

Che, however, said the rise of online shopping ultimately contributed to the demise of Bestseller Saipan.

"Not surprised, given the rise of e-books and Amazon, Audible, Kindle, etc. and the variety of books available (plus fast shipping)," she said.

PSS language speech pathologist Kathy Ruzsala said Bestseller bidding the CNMI goodbye is very unfortunate.

"It was one of my favorite stores as a child, stopping by to pick up Goosebumps, Archie comics, or a Sudoku puzzle book. I remember lining up, waiting for the doors to open, like it was Black Friday just so I can get my copy of the latest Harry Potter before my siblings, who were Stateside. This

was one of the perks of being a day ahead in the time zone. Thank you, Bestseller Saipan. You will be missed."

Manhita Marianas director Eva Aguon Cruz also is sad with the closure of Bestseller Saipan, adding that nothing beats reading a good book.

"I think we are living in such a highly technical world

Gap grows between TikTok users, lawmakers on potential ban

NEW YORK (AP)—On the one side are dozens of lawmakers on Capitol Hill issuing dire warnings about security breaches and possible Chinese surveillance.

On the other are some 150 million TikTok users in the U.S. who just want to be able to keep making and watching short, fun videos offering makeup tutorials and cooking lessons, among other things.

The disconnect illustrates the uphill battle that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle face in trying to convince the public that China could use TikTok as a weapon against the American people. But many users on the platform are more concerned about the possibility of the government taking away their favorite app.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew said during a nearly six-hour congressional hearing Thursday that the platform has never turned over user data to the Chinese government, and wouldn't do so if asked.

Nevertheless, lawmakers, the FBI and officials at other agencies continue to

where the way we gather information and relate to stories happens more in a digital space. I'm kind of old school though and I find that even though technology makes knowledge and information a lot more accessible through PDFs and online platforms, for me, even as I'm doing my master's studies for school,

Gap grows between TikTok users, lawmakers on potential ban

raise alarms that Chinese law compels Chinese companies like TikTok's parent company ByteDance to fork over data to the government for whatever purposes it deems to involve national security. There's also concern Beijing might try to push pro-China narratives or misinformation through the platform.

"I want to say this to all the teenagers out there, and TikTok influencers who think we're just old and out of touch and don't know what we're talking about, trying to take your favorite app," said Republican Rep. Dan Crenshaw during the hearing. "You may not care that your data is being accessed now, but you will be one day."

Many TikTok users reacted to the hearing by posting videos critical of lawmakers who grilled Chew and frequently cut him off from speaking. Some called a potential TikTok ban, as some lawmakers and the Biden administration has reportedly threatened, the "biggest scam" of the year. And others blamed the surge



MARK RABAGO
Bestseller Saipan Retail Store manager Tahannie Ayuyu has been with the CNMI's lone bookstore the past eight years.

there's nothing like the feeling of flipping through the pages of a fresh book," she said.

Retail Store manager Tahannie Ayuyu, one of two remaining employees of Bestseller Saipan, said it's indeed a sad day after she learned that her place of employment the past eight years was closing shop.

She said sales weren't the same after they moved from Joeten Susupe to Chalan Kiya, where there was heavier traffic. Ayuyu said she's relocating to Cincinnati, Ohio to be with her sister.

of scrutiny on the platform on another tech rival, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

But few expressed fear of possible Chinese surveillance or security breaches that lawmakers continue to amplify as they look to rein in TikTok.

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., whose district is in the heart of Silicon Valley, said he is mindful of the value that platforms like TikTok provide to young people as an outlet for creative expression and building community. "But there's absolutely no reason that an American technology company can't do that," said Khanna, the top Democrat on the cyber subcommittee on House Armed Service. "America has the most innovative technology companies in the world."

He added that Congress should move forward with a proposal that would force platform's sale to an American company for continued access for its millions of users while "ensuring that the platform isn't subject to Chinese propaganda or compromises people's privacy."

Nation

Daunting recovery underway in tornado-devastated Mississippi

ROLLING FORK, Miss. (AP)—Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction for more than an hour across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late Friday. A man was also killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

“Everything I can see is in some state of destruction,” said Jarrod Kunze, who drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to help “in whatever capacity I’m needed.”

Kunze was among volunteers working Sunday at a staging area, where bottled water and other supplies were being readied for distribution.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

The storm hit so quickly that the sheriff’s department in Rolling Fork barely had time to set off sirens to warn the community of 2,000 residents, said Mayor Eldridge Walker.

“And by the time they ini-

tiated the siren, the storm had hit and it tore down the siren that’s located right over here,” Walker said, referring to an area just blocks from downtown.

The mayor said his town was devastated.

“Sharkey County, Mississippi, is one of the poorest counties in the state of Mississippi, but we’re still resilient,” he said. “We’ve got a long way to go, and we certainly thank everybody for their prayers and for anything they will do or can do for this community.”

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration for Mississippi early Sunday, making federal funding available to hardest hit areas.

“Help is on the way,” Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said at a news conference with local, state and federal leaders.

Recovery efforts in Mississippi were underway even as the National Weather Service warned of a new risk of more severe weather Sunday—including high winds, large hail and possible tornadoes in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

A tornado touched down early Sunday in Troup County, Georgia, near the Alabama border, according to the Georgia Mutual Aid Group. Affected areas included the county seat of LaGrange, about 67 miles (108 kilometers) southwest of Atlanta.

About 100 buildings were



Ezell Williams cries while talking about the damage caused to his properties and those of his neighbors, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Rolling Fork, Miss., where a tornado swept through the town two days earlier. Emergency officials in Mississippi say several people have been killed by tornadoes that tore through the state on Friday night, destroying buildings and knocking out power as severe weather produced hail the size of golf balls moved through several southern states.

damaged, with at least 30 uninhabitable, and five people suffered minor injuries, officials said. Many roads, including Interstate Highway 85, were blocked by debris.

Two tigers briefly escaped from their enclosures at Wild Animal Safari in Pine Mountain, Georgia, after the park sustained extensive tornado damage. “Both have now been found, tranquilized, and safely returned to a secure enclosure,” the park said on Facebook. None of its employees or animals were hurt, it said.

Outside of Rolling Fork, a tornado ripped apart the home where Kimberly Berry lived in the Delta flatlands. The twister left only a foundation and a few belongings—a toppled refrigerator, a dresser and nightstand, a bag of Christmas decorations, some clothing.

Berry said she and her 12-year-old daughter huddled and prayed inside a nearby church as the storm roared outside.

“I didn’t hear nothing but my own self praying and God answering my prayer.

more stringent bans the further we get away from Roe v. Wade being the law,” she said.

Kelsey Pritchard, a member of the state affairs staff at Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said those ballot measure losses motivated anti-abortion groups to get their message out more strongly. “It was a wake-up call for how much work we have to do,” she said.

The ban currently implemented in Tennessee is among the most stringent. Instead of an exception for abortions to save the life of the woman, it includes an “affirmative defense” for doctors, placing the burden on them to prove an abortion was medically necessary.

Now, a scaled-back proposal is moving through the Legislature. It removes the affirmative defense language but still doesn’t grant access to abortions in the cases of “medically futile pregnancies” and lethal fetal anomalies. Doctors warned the new exemption will do little to relieve worries about being prosecuted.

I mean, I can get another house, another furniture. But literally saving my life—I’m thankful,” she said.

Following Biden’s declaration, federal funding will be available for recovery efforts in Mississippi’s Carroll, Humphreys, Monroe and Sharkey counties, including temporary housing, home repairs, loans covering uninsured property losses and other individual and business programs, the White House said in a statement.

The twister flattened entire blocks, obliterated houses, ripped a steeple off a church and toppled a municipal water tower.

Based on early data, the tornado received a preliminary EF-4 rating, the National Weather Service office in Jackson said in a tweet. An EF-4 tornado has top wind gusts between 166 mph and 200 mph (265 kph and 320 kph).

DeSantis team welcomes contrast with Trump ‘chaos’ candidacy

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Jim McKee is standing at the end of a line that snakes through five aisles of fiction inside the Books-A-Million store in Florida’s capital city.

He is smiling because in a matter of minutes, the book he’s holding will be signed by its author, Ron DeSantis, the Republican governor who McKee believes should be the nation’s next president. But as a former Donald Trump loyalist, the 44-year-old Tallahassee attorney almost whispers when he first says it out loud.

“Personally, I’d rather see DeSantis win the Republican primary than Trump,” McKee says softly, having to repeat himself to be heard. His voice soon grows louder.

“Trump has upset so many people,” McKee says. “DeSantis is more palatable. He has a good story to tell.”

Indeed, conversations throughout Tallahassee’s book stores, conference rooms, state house offices and sports bars reveal that DeSantis’ allies are gaining confidence as Trump’s legal woes mount. The former president faces a possible indictment in New York over his role in a hush money scheme during the 2016 campaign to prevent porn actor Stormy Daniels from going public about an extramarital sexual encounter, which he denies.

The optimism around DeSantis comes even as an unlikely collection of estab-

lishment-minded Republican officials and Make America Great Again influencers raise concerns about the Florida governor’s readiness for the national stage. DeSantis has stumbled at times under the weight of intensifying national scrutiny as he builds out his political organization and introduces himself to voters in key primary states.

DeSantis’ allies privately scoffed at recent reports of anonymous concerns over the direction of his campaign, noting there is no campaign. The 44-year-old governor isn’t expected to launch his White House bid for at least two more months. And the first presidential primary contest is roughly 10 months away.

For now, DeSantis’ team, headquartered here on the front edge of Florida’s Panhandle, believes he holds a position of strength among Republican voters. And as Trump fights to undermine DeSantis, his strongest Republican rival, the Florida governor’s growing coalition is eager to highlight the contrast between the two men.

On one side stands Trump, a twice-impeached former president carrying a new level of turmoil into the 2024 presidential contest. On the other is DeSantis, a big-state governor coming off a commanding reelection, who is a far more disciplined messenger and hyperfocused on enacting conservative policies.

States’ divisions on abortion widen after Roe overturned

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A group of Tennessee Republicans began this year’s legislative session hoping to add narrow exceptions to one of the strictest abortion bans in the country, armed with the belief that most people—even in conservative Tennessee—reject extremes on the issue.

Tennessee law requires doctors to prove in court that they were saving a woman’s life when they performed an abortion. Surely, the lawmakers thought, they could win concessions that would allow doctors to use their good faith judgment about when abortion is necessary to save a woman’s life. But after a key anti-abortion group stepped in, the lawmakers had to settle for a stricter legal standard that moves the needle very little.

Like lawmakers in several GOP-led states who started the year thinking about moderating the nation’s toughest abortion laws, Tennessee’s lawmakers found no appetite among their colleagues for

loosening the rules.

During the first legislative sessions in most states since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, lawmakers on both sides are dug in. Republicans are moving to make abortion restrictions tougher. Democrat-dominated states are moving to protect access for their residents and, now, for the residents of other states arriving for care.

“Abortion is one of the most stark examples of the political divide between red states and blue states, even when we know that people generally favor the middle on abortion,” said Gretchen Ely, a professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee.

Last year’s overturning of the 1973 Roe decision meant that state laws banning or restricting abortion if such a ruling arrived took effect. Many were met with legal challenges. Currently, bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy are in place in 13 states and on hold in another four because

of court injunctions.

Lawmakers in most states have introduced abortion-related legislation this year. Republican-backed measures include funding for counseling centers that discourage abortion, bans on medication abortions and other restrictions. Democrats’ bills include expanding insurance coverage for abortion and knocking back restrictions implemented in the past.

The legislative action comes after voters in six states—conservative, moderate and liberal—voted in referendums last year and abortion access proponents prevailed in all of them. Polling has shown the public was unhappy with the overturning of Roe even as they also support some abortion restrictions.

But Mary Ziegler, a legal historian at the University of California, Davis School of Law, said anti-abortion groups are anticipating that abortion rights support will gradually diminish.

“There’s a belief that people will be more open to more and

Asia

North Korea test-fires more missiles as US sends carrier



AP
A South Korean army soldier watches the North Korea side from the Unification Observation Post in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Friday, March 24, 2023.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern waters Monday, continuing its weapons displays as the United States moved an aircraft carrier strike group to neighboring waters for military exercises with the South.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the two missiles were fired from a western inland area south of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang from around 7:47 a.m. to 8 a.m. and traveled around 370 kilometers (229 miles) before landing at sea. Japan's military said the missiles flew on an "irregular" trajectory and reached a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (31 miles) before landing outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Japan has previously used the term to describe a North Korean solid-fuel missile apparently modeled after Russia's Iskander mobile ballistic system, which

is designed to be maneuverable in low-altitude flight to better evade South Korean missile defenses. North Korea also has another short-range system with similar characteristics that resembles the U.S. MGM-140 Army Tactical Missile System.

The launches came a day before the USS Nimitz and its strike group are to arrive at the South Korean port of Busan. South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Nimitz strike group will participate in exercises with South Korean warships on Monday in international waters near the South Korean resort island of Jeju before heading to Busan.

The launches were the North's seventh missile event this month and underscore heightening tensions in the region as the pace of both North Korean weapons tests and the U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises has accelerated in recent months in a cycle of tit-for-

tat responses.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said North Korea may dial up its testing activity further with more missile launches or even conducting its first nuclear test since September 2017.

The South Korean and Japanese militaries denounced the latest launches as serious provocations threatening regional peace and violating U.N. Security Council resolutions and said they were working with the United States to analyze the missiles further.

The United States and South Korea completed their biggest springtime exercises in years last week, which had included both computer simulations and life-fire field exercises. But the allies have continued their field training in a show of force against North Korea's expanding nuclear arsenal and belligerent threats of nuclear conflict.

Honduras establishes ties with China after Taiwan break

BEIJING (AP)—Honduras established diplomatic ties with China on Sunday after breaking off relations with Taiwan, which is increasingly isolated and now recognized by only 13 sovereign states.

Foreign ministers from China and Honduras signed a joint communique in Beijing—a decision the Chinese Foreign Ministry hailed as "the right choice."

The diplomatic victory for China comes as tensions rise between Beijing and the United States, including over China's increasing assertiveness toward self-ruled Taiwan, and signals growing Chinese influence in Latin America. The new China-Honduras relationship was announced after the Honduran and Taiwanese governments made separate announcements that they were severing ties.

China and Taiwan have been locked in a battle for diplomatic recognition since they

split amid civil war in 1949, with Beijing spending billions to win recognition for its "one China" policy.

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary, and refuses most contacts with countries that maintain formal ties with the island democracy. It threatens retaliation against countries merely for increasing contacts.

China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang said the establishment of ties proved that adhering to "one China" policy is winning people's hearts and is "the general trend."

"We inform sternly the Taiwan authorities that engaging in separatist activities for Taiwan independence is against the will and interests of the Chinese nation and against the trend of history, and is doomed to a dead end," he said.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Twitter that its government

recognizes "only one China in the world" and that Beijing "is the only legitimate government that represents all of China."

It added that "Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory, and as of today, the Honduran government has informed Taiwan of the severance of diplomatic relations, pledging not to have any official relationship or contact with Taiwan."

Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told a news conference Sunday that Taiwan had ended its relations with Honduras to "safeguard its sovereignty and dignity."

Wu said that Honduran President Xiomara Castro and her team always had a "fantasy" about China and had raised the issue of switching ties before the presidential election in Honduras in 2021. Relations between Taiwan and Honduras were once stable, he said, but China had not stopped luring Honduras.

World

Ukraine demands emergency UN meeting over Putin's nuclear plan

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said Russia "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

Further heightening tensions, an explosion deep inside Russia wounded three people Sunday. Russian authorities blamed a Ukrainian drone for the blast, which damaged residential buildings in a town just 175 kilometers (110 miles) south of Moscow.

Russia has said the plan to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus comes in response to the West's increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a TV interview that aired Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. decision this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States. He noted that Washington has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

"We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," he said.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry condemned the move in a statement Sunday and demanded an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

"Ukraine expects effective action to counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail by the U.K., China, the U.S. and France," the statement read, saying these countries "have a special responsibility" regarding nuclear aggression.

"The world must be united against someone who endangers the future of human civilization," the statement said.

Ukraine has not commented on Sunday's explosion inside Russia. It left a crater about 15 meters (50 feet) in diameter and five meters deep (16 feet), according to media reports.

Russian state-run news agency Tass reported authorities identified the drone as a Ukrainian Tu-141. The Soviet-era drone was reintroduced in Ukraine in 2014, and has a range of about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles).

The explosion took place in the town of Kireyevsk in the Tula region, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) from the border with Ukraine. Russia's Defense Ministry said the

drone crashed after an electronic jamming system disabled its navigation.

Similar drone attacks have been common during the war, although Ukraine hardly ever acknowledges responsibility. On Monday, Russia said Ukrainian drones attacked civilian facilities in the town of Dzhankoi in Russia-annexed Crimea. Ukraine's military said several Russian cruise missiles were destroyed, but did not specifically claim responsibility.

In December, the Russian military reported several Ukrainian drone attacks on long-range bomber bases deep inside Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry said the drones were shot down, but acknowledged that their debris damaged some aircraft and killed several servicemen.

Also, Russian authorities have reported attacks by small drones in the Bryansk and Belgorod regions on the border with Ukraine.

On Saturday, Putin argued that Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has long asked to have nuclear weapons in his country again to counter NATO. Belarus shares borders with three NATO members—Latvia, Lithuania and Poland—and Russia used Belarusian territory as a staging ground to send troops into neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Iran-backed fighters on alert in east Syria after US strikes

BEIRUT (AP)—Iran-backed fighters were on alert in eastern Syria on Saturday, a day after U.S. forces launched retaliatory airstrikes on sites in the war-torn country, opposition activists said. The airstrikes came after a suspected Iran-made drone killed a U.S. contractor and wounded six other Americans on Thursday.

The situation was calm following a day in which rockets were fired at bases housing U.S. troops in eastern Syria. The rockets came after U.S. airstrikes on three different areas in Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour, which borders Iraq, opposition activists said.

While it's not the first time the U.S. and Iran have traded strikes in Syria, the attack and the U.S. response threaten to upend recent efforts to deescalate tensions across the wider Middle East, whose rival powers have made steps toward

détente in recent days after years of turmoil.

In the first Syrian comment since the attacks occurred, the foreign ministry condemned the U.S. strikes saying they are "a flagrant violation of Syria's sovereignty." The ministry added in a statement that Damascus aims to end "American occupation" and spread government control over all parts of the country.

"The calm continues as Iran-backed militiamen are on alert out of concern of possible new airstrikes," said Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor.

Omar Abu Layla, an activist from Deir el-Zour who is currently in the U.S. and runs a group that monitors developments in east Syria, said Iran-backed fighters have evacuated some of their posts and moved into

trenches in case of any more American strikes. "They are in a state of alert," he said.

President Joe Biden said Friday that the U.S. would respond "forcefully" to protect its personnel after U.S. forces retaliated with airstrikes on sites in Syria used by groups affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. The strikes followed an attack Thursday by a suspected Iran-made drone that killed a U.S. contractor and wounded five American servicemembers and a U.S. contractor.

"The United States does not, does not seek conflict with Iran," Biden said in Ottawa, Canada, where he was on a state visit. But he said Iran and its proxies should be prepared for the U.S. "to act forcefully to protect our people. That's exactly what happened last night." Activists said the U.S. bombing killed at least four people.

Overdrive

The 2023 Lexus RZ 450e is good, but is it good enough?

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Naysayers have criticized Toyota and Lexus for not getting into the electric vehicle space as quickly as some of its rivals. Yes, EV market share in the U.S. nearly doubled last year to 5.6 percent from 3.1 percent. But that still leaves nearly 95% of U.S. consumers choosing cars powered by gasoline. So, it seems that Toyota does have time to enter the EV segment, something it did last year with the introduction of the Toyota bZ4X.

Now, Lexus has done the same thing, with the introduction of the 2023 Lexus RZ 450e, which uses the same architecture as its Toyota cousin, in this case Toyota's New Global Architecture. But this is not a case of a Toyota with more window dressing, as the Lexus offers better performance and a host of luxury options.

The 2023 Lexus RZ 450e's overall appearance calls to mind the RX, but it lacks the RX's spindle grille. Instead, the RZ's sheet metal and trim are shaped to suggest its form



The 2023 Lexus RZ 450e's battery pack and electric motors are located under the floor.

in fine futuristic fashion. The RZ's overall look is similar to the RX, but carefully hewn to deliver a drag coefficient of 0.29, the slipperiest Lexus yet.

Because the 2023 Lexus RZ 450e's battery pack and electric motors are located under the floor, it yields noticeable benefits inside, with significantly more space than its conventional siblings of similar size. But strangely, storage space suffers, as Lexus has not fitted the RZ with a front trunk as on some

other EVs, nor does it have a glovebox. Lexus claims that open space under the center console compensates, but there's no way to hide your items from view, nor secure them for safekeeping.

Of course, being that Lexus is seeking to enhance its green credibility, the interior of the RZ lacks wood and leather, opting instead for manmade materials, including fake suede. A 14-inch touchscreen houses most of the cabin's controls, although there

are some conventional ones as well

Thoughtfully, the RZ450e is fitted with five USB-C ports: three up front and two in the back, as well as a wireless charger. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto come standard.

While technology is important, what matters more is the RZ's performance. At 308 horsepower, Lexus claims the RZ runs 0-60 mph in five seconds, which is good but not best-in-class. Others offer more,

but the RZ 450e has nearly 100 horsepower more than the bZ4X. And unlike its Toyota sibling, all-wheel drive is standard. Certainly, the RZ feels fleet enough for the daily drudgery of driving, but how far you can go on a full charge depends on your tires.

The RZ 450e is offered in base Premium trim and tonier Limited livery. Premiums have 18-inch wheels, netting 220 miles of range, while Luxury model's 20-inch wheels only returns 196 miles. Thoughtfully, RZ buyers will receive 30 days of free Lexus rentals for longer trips.

And surprisingly, recharging is relatively poky, with a full charge taking 9.5 hours using a 240-volt outlet. Charging to 80% is more reasonable, taking a half-hour using a DC fast charger. Again, others offer quicker charges, particularly at this price.

But if you've driven a Lexus in the past, you should find much to like here.

Engineers added extra bracing to enhance the RZ's feeling of solidity, which can be felt when flogging it on your favorite road. It feels solid, with minimal body roll and a comfy ride. The sizable battery pack does lend it a low center of gravity, enhancing its driving feel. But it's no sports car, nor would you expect it to be. Yet it handles fairly well, despite fairly numb steering.

Of course, you could opt for the steer-by-wire option, which will be available in 2024 and incorporates a yoke-style steering

wheel. It feels odd at first, but proves easy to get used to. Yet how far you turn it depends on your speed and other factors, so it can vary. But because its connection to the wheels is electronic, not physical, you'll never experience steering wheel kickback over big bumps. And you'll never use hand-over-hand steering. It proves very fast, and is far more precise than its conventional steering sibling.

All RZ EVs feature regenerative braking, which recovers energy generated from braking to help recharge the battery pack. Usually, you can adjust the amount of regeneration. Boost it, and you rarely have to use the brake pedal, as the regeneration slows the car. This allows the driver to use one pedal to drive, only rarely resorting to using the brake pedal. But regeneration effort is light in the RZ and can't be adjusted. So those who prefer one-pedal driving will be disappointed.

If you've driven a Lexus before, you'll find the Lexus RZ 450e to be a solid EV. But its lack of range, good but not great horsepower, pokey charging rate and lack of basic niceties such as a locking glovebox put it at a disadvantage against its competitors, such as the Tesla Model Y, Audi e-tron and Jaguar I-Pace. And under the Inflation Reduction Act, it no longer qualifies for a federal tax credit.

But such quibbles shouldn't affect its popularity, seeing as Lexus only plans to sell 4,900 units in its first year.

What is function of steering angle sensor?

Q: I am an owner of a 2010 Equinox with 70,000 miles. After replacing all four struts, we had a wheel alignment done. The vehicle had a left pull after the alignment. My mechanic switched two front tires left to right. Vehicle still pulls left. I recently read that the steering angle sensor needs to be reset after an alignment. Is this true? I don't believe this was done on my vehicle. What is the function of the steering angle sensor?

G.C., Chicago

A: Delphi Technologies, supplier of steering angle sensors to GM says in its website, "As of the 2012 model year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) required all new passenger vehicles sold in the US to be equipped with ESC for overall safety. Electronic stability control (ESC) is a series of sensors that work with a computer to improve vehicle stability by detecting and reducing the loss of traction." The most important sensors are the yaw rate sensor, lateral acceleration sensor, wheel speed sensor and steering wheel angle sensor. After an alignment or other suspension work, the steering angle sensor must be recalibrated. This is simply done using a scan tool plugged into the OBD (onboard diagnostics) connector.

■■■

Q: I have a "howling" tire. After my tires were rotated it was on the left front. The noise was too much so the dealer rotated them all back to where they were. The dealer said the tire was cupped. My questions are what would cause a tire to cup and is it safe to keep driving on it? I have 30,000 miles on the tires. Still have good tread. Dealer told me there was no warranty to cover this. I bought the car new with these tires.

C.T., Chicago

A: Although tire cupping can be due to a misaligned suspension, the most common cause is worn ride control devices—shock absorbers or struts. A bent rim is another slim possibility, but the dealer would have probably spotted it. Although

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

annoying, the tire is acceptable to drive on until replaced.

■■■

Q: My wife bought a new Camry in 2018. She has put 10,000 miles on it. The car is in mint condition. We do not want to sell the car; we want to eventually give it to our grandson. I turn on the car once a week and idle it for 10 minutes, but I do not take it out of the garage. The car has a synthetic oil in it. Should I be doing anything else to preserve it?

M.K., Bloomingdale, Illinois

A: It sounds like your grandson will be getting a sweet ride. Meanwhile take the car out for a spin about once a month or so. Drive a combination of local and highway speeds. Give it some exercise. And, oh, change the oil based on the time interval stated in your owner's manual.

■■■

Q: I was told many years ago (maybe 40 years ago) that you should never shift from reverse to drive or drive to reverse before completely stopping because it will damage the transmission. Is this true? My husband always does this on my 2015 Nissan Murano and it worries me.

B.F., Dundee, Illinois

A: It's still a good idea to come to a stop before shifting from reverse to drive, but it is not essential like it used to be.

NUTS & BOLTS

- 2023 Lexus RZ 450e
- Base price: \$59,650
- Motors: 150kW front and 80kW rear
- Horsepower/Torque: 308/320 pound-feet
- EPA estimated range: 220 miles
- Recharge time (240 volts): 9.5 hours
- Length/Width/Height: 189.7/74.6/64.4 inches
- Ground clearance: 7.8 inches
- Payload: 1,201 pounds
- Cargo capacity: 23.7-55.6 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: Not available

Instead of relying on hydraulic pressure to switch gears, today's cars use solenoids controlled by a computer. Now, as one solenoid applies, another solenoid releases at the proper time.

Life & Style

Adele extends Las Vegas residency, plans concert film

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Adele announced Sunday that she's extending her Las Vegas residency with 34 more dates between June and November and also plans to release a concert film.

Saturday night's show was

the last performance in the British singer's original "Weekends With Adele" series that covered 34 dates since last November on the Las Vegas Strip.

Her representatives



Adele

said Adele's shows will resume at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace on June 16 and run through Nov. 4.

The June performances will be recorded and released

as a concert special.

Adele ended speculation about her future at the Colosseum, telling a sold-out crowd Saturday night that she will be back in June and mentioning the concert film, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

"Playing to 4,000 people for 34 dates is not enough, and I know that," Adele said. "So I am coming back for a

few weeks in June, and I'm going to release it to make sure anyone who wants to see this show can see it."

Jonathan Majors arrested on assault charge in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—

The actor Jonathan Majors was arrested Saturday in New York on charges of strangulation, assault and harassment, authorities said. On Sunday, an attorney for Majors said there's evidence that he is "entirely innocent."

New York City police said that Majors, star of the recently released "Creed III" and "Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania," was involved in a domestic dispute with a 30-year-old woman. Police responded around 11 a.m. Saturday to a 911 call inside an apartment in the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea.

"The victim informed police she was assaulted," a spokesperson for the NYPD said in a statement. "Officers placed the 33-year-old male into custody without incident. The victim sustained minor injuries to her head and neck and was removed to an area hospital in stable condition."

A representative for Majors denied any wrongdoing by the actor.

"He has done nothing wrong," the representative said in an email to the AP on Saturday. "We look forward

to clearing his name and clearing this up."

On Sunday, an attorney for Majors, Priya Chaudhry, came out more forcefully, saying Majors "is provably the victim of an altercation

with a woman he knows" and blamed the incident on the woman having "an emotional crisis."

Chaudhry said there was evidence clearing Majors, including "video footage from the vehicle where this episode took place, witness testimony from the driver and others who both saw and heard the episode, and most importantly, two written statements from the woman recanting these allegations."

An email seeking additional comment from the NYPD based on Chaudhry's assertions was not immediately returned Sunday.

Majors was arraigned Sunday on a complaint involving misdemeanor charges for assault and aggravated harassment, the Manhattan district attorney's office said. A judge ordered Majors released on his own recognizance on Saturday night with a limited order of protection. He was scheduled to appear in court on May 8.



Majors

'John Wick: Chapter 4' comes out blazing with \$73.5M

NEW YORK (AP)—"John Wick: Chapter 4," the fourth installment in the Keanu Reeves assassin series, debuted with a franchise-best \$73.5 million at the box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Lionsgate film, starring Reeves as the reluctant-but-not-that-reluctant killer John Wick, exceeded both expectations and previous opening weekends in the R-rated franchise. Since first launching in 2014 with "John Wick" (\$14 million on its opening weekend), the Chad Stahelski-directed series has steadily grown as a ticket-seller with each sequel. The 2017 follow-up opened with \$30.4 million, and the 2019 third chapter, "Parabellum," debuted with \$56.8 million.

But "Chapter 4," running two hours and 49 minutes and costing at least \$100 million to produce, is the biggest film yet in the once-clean action series. Critics also said it was a franchise high point, scoring 95% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes. The film, which drew a 69% male audience, added \$64 million overseas. It's Lionsgate's biggest success



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Keanu Reeves, right, star of "John Wick: Chapter 4," arrives at the premiere of the film, Monday, March 20, 2023, at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

of the pandemic era.

"When you make a fourth in an action franchise, you have to expect it to go down. That is the nature of these franchises," said Joe Drake, chairman of Lionsgate Motion Picture Group. "But we kept seeing signals and it was wonderful to see the movie they delivered. We saw the audience wanting more."

Though "John Wick" has been bigger at the box office with each new release—an enviable and rare trajectory among Hollywood franchises—"Chapter 4" brings some finality to Reeves' character. The actor hasn't

entirely dismissed continuing the series, telling interviewers "never say never."

Regardless, the franchise is set to keep humming. A spin-off titled "Ballerina" starring Ana de Armas and co-starring Reeves has already been shot. The mini-series "The Continental," with Mel Gibson, is upcoming on Peacock.

"Chad and Keanu have created this world and that world continues to expand. I don't know what all the edges of that world are, still," said Drake. "As best they can, they'll continue to try to seduce Keanu to come

back and do things. He gets beat up in these shows. He really does. And at the end he's like, 'I'm not doing it anymore.' Then you watch him sit in the theater and feel that audience."

"So we're going to continue to look for ways to meet that demand."

The release of "John Wick: Chapter 4," which included a surprise premiere at SXSW, was also bitter-sweet. Lance Reddick, who plays the Continental Hotel concierge, Charon, in the films, unexpectedly died at the age of 60 a week before the film's release.

Husband has nickel-and-dime approach to family finances

DEAR ABBY: I've been married for more than 30 years. My husband and I split all bills and everything else. This has worked because, in life, I have always taken care of myself. My issue is his cheap attitude about every little dime. He always makes sure I pay my fair share TO THE PENNY, but when it comes to his reimbursing me, he usually rounds down to the dollar.

While he's tight with the family, he's generous to everyone else. He is generous not only with his money, but also his time. His stinginess toward me makes me feel I'm unimportant to him. (I am very generous to him.) Why are our family and I lowest on his priority list while he's so generous to everyone else?

FEELING SLIGHTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR FEELING: Your husband may have cultivated the reputation of being benevolent and munificent because he feels it is to his advantage. He may not feel the need to impress you and other family members because he sees no advantage in it. What a miserable, miserly husband you have. I'm surprised that rather than write to me, you haven't confronted him about it. Things might have been different if had you spoken up decades ago.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife passed away six months ago after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. I was her primary

caregiver. Since she passed, her brother has been showing the same symptoms of paranoia she started with. Contact with him brings back sad memories, but I don't know how to talk to him about it without starting a big family upset. Your thoughts?

SEES SIGNS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SEES SIGNS: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your wife. Her relatives should be aware that this disease can run in families so they can watch for it. It may be counterproductive to talk to your brother-in-law about this. Start by talking to his closest relatives (spouse, siblings, children if he has any) about your concerns and the signs you are seeing. He will need to be evaluated by medical professionals to determine what, if any next steps, need to be taken.

As you probably know, if your former BIL does have Alzheimer's, the Alzheimer's Association is there to provide emotional support and practical advice. The association's website is at alz.org, and its 24/7 Helpline is 1-800-272-3900.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was at a semiformal dinner party with my wife and five other couples. During the first course, I found a large green caterpillar (alive) in my salad. What's the best way to handle this type of situation?

YIKES! IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR 'YIKES!': It goes without question that the "uninvited visitor" be evicted. A way to do that without embarrassing your host would be to quietly pick the critter up, excuse yourself from the table and release it into the wild out a window or the back door. If you are a devout animal lover, take a bit of lettuce with you so it won't go hungry.

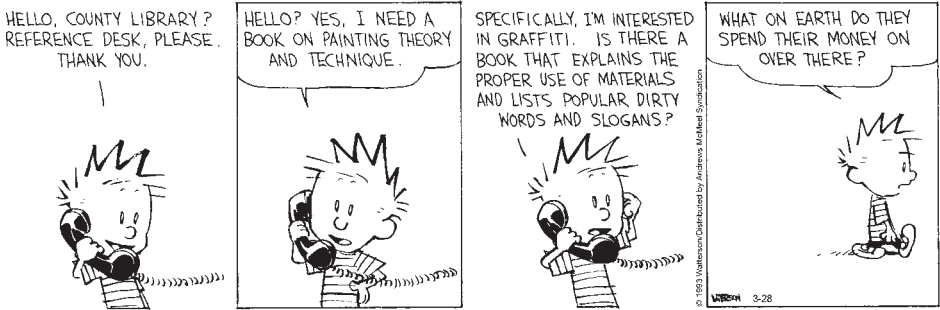
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



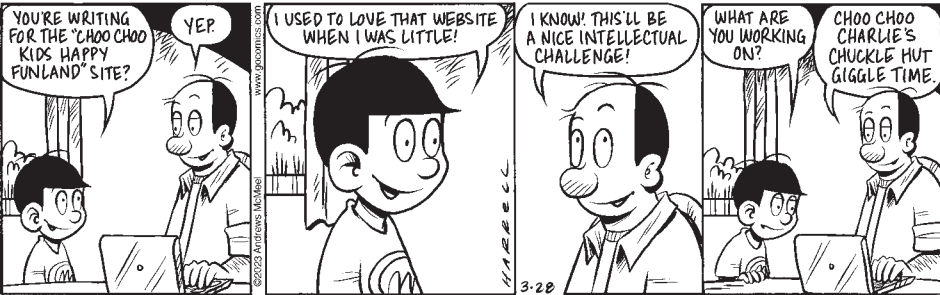
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ACROSS

1 Née of Celia Cruz
5 Biting remark
9 — "Kapital"
12 Initial chip
13 Popular cookie
14 Curator's focus
15 Scour thoroughly
17 — bind
18 Toppers
19 Peer in a box
21 Put on, as cargo
24 New Jersey Senator Booker
25 Passel
26 Clobbered
30 Tummy muscles
31 Trivial
32 Tram load
33 Catch some z's
35 Do laps
36 "Cola" lead-in
37 '70s club

DOWN

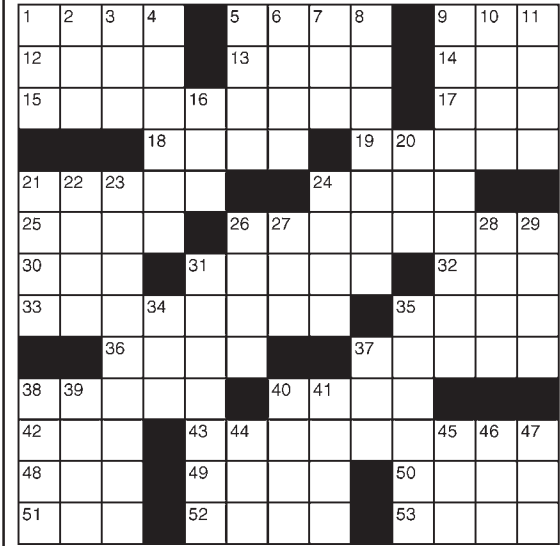
38 Music
40 Dazzle
42 Coloration
43 Snack spot on a train
48 Bobby of hockey
49 Pronto
50 Classic Kinks song
51 Sturdy tree
52 Coffee cups
53 Way out
1 Abysmal
2 Count start

3 Hwy.
4 Brother's son
5 Piece of hardware
6 God of war
7 Irish actor Stephen
8 "Good day, Maurice"
9 Farm grazers
10 Flor-ence's river
11 Luminary
16 Scoundrel
20 Ornate vase
21 Aspiring atty.'s exam
22 Actress Jessica
23 Hotel greeter
24 Hen pen
26 Turner or Fey
27 Genetic letters
28 Rocker Clapton
29 Show-room sample
31 Paving material
34 Dawn goddess
35 Un-attached
37 Press for payment
38 "Scram!"
39 Mystique
40 Un-foreseen problem
41 Gratuities
44 Terre Haute sch.
45 "Friends" cast member
46 Frazier foe
47 Scoundrel

Solution time: 22 mins.

N	A	T	S	T	A	J	B	E	L	L
T	H	E	A	L	A	M	O	E	D	I
H	A	N	D	B	O	O	K	F	I	N
E	A	R	L	S	T	B	A	R		
E	L	S	E	C	O	O	L	E	R	S
E	D	T	G	O	D	O	T	O	W	E
O	U	T	L	O	O	K	T	A	I	L
A	P	L	O	M	B		B	A	M	
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E	L	I	A		O	R	A	T	O	R
W	E	N	D		K	E	N		Y	E

Yesterday's answer 3-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lady Gaga, 37; Julia Stiles, 42; Vince Vaughn, 53; Reba McEntire, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take your time; get organized. Preparation will help eliminate mishaps and misunderstandings. Stay in control and push forward with your issues and the goals that matter most to you. The hard work you put in this year will make a difference for years to come. Trust and believe in yourself, and refuse to let anyone get in your way. Think big, but be reasonable. Doors will open. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 24, 30, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Distance yourself from anyone who tries your patience. Spend more time on personal goals, not arguing with someone about something that doesn't matter. Focus on your options and how to make the most of your time. Success will follow. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to detail and present what you have to offer with pizzazz. How you portray yourself and your lifestyle will flip a switch in someone who can help. Share what's important, but not too much about your personal life. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to the script and you won't get caught off guard. If you want others to take you seriously, display what you can do with precision and detail. Share with people who have track records of living up to their promises. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're all ready to go. Pour your energy into something concrete that will benefit you instead of bending to the likes of someone else. Learn from the experience and you won't make the same

mistake twice. Personal growth is favored. ★★★★★
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Step in and take over. Your insight and openness will encourage others to go to bat for you. Don't let a change someone makes disrupt your plans. Avoid unpredictable situations or liability to your financial well-being. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't waste time when you can accomplish so much. Put your blinders on to help you ignore interference that comes your way, and allow yourself to focus on whatever carries you to your goal. A personal change will give you the edge you need in a competition. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your emotions out of the mix when dealing with professional situations. Protect your reputation by fulfilling your duties and keeping an open dialogue with your partners, peers and loved ones. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll dominate what happens next. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll get the most done if you work alone. A home improvement project will pay off and put you in a better financial position. Let your creative imagination take over, and you'll dazzle everyone with your comments or propositions. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anyone limit your achievements. Set your course and follow through. Build a solid foundation to satisfy your needs, regardless of what others do or say. Don't let anyone disrupt your day or your plans. Distance yourself from liars and cheaters. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

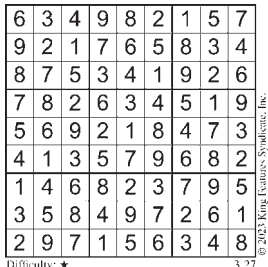
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★ 3-28
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home. Getting into a feud with a friend, relative or colleague will stop you from getting things done on time. Discipline will help you override any interference you encounter. Pay attention to your personal goals and update your image. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep the momentum flowing and you'll discover innovative ways to turn your attributes into a lucrative endeavor. Keeping a low profile and working alone will prove beneficial. Don't present your plans until you are prepared and confident; you'll achieve your desired results. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get down; refuse to argue or let someone interfere with your plans. Working toward your goal will feed your imagination and encourage you to surpass your original objective. Believe in yourself and everything will fall into place. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, emotional and heroic. You are adaptable and pioneering.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REJUVENATED Solution: 9 letters



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Active, Aging, Awaken, Care, Dream, Facial, Fitness, Growth, Guide, Help, Home, Life, Live, Love, Makeover, Massage, Meditating, Mind, Music, Natural, Need, Recharge, Reclaim, Recondition, Recreated, Redo, Relax, Renew, Resting, Restore, Retire, Revitalize, Revive, Self, Spiritual, Start, Time, Trails, Vacation, Vision Board, Wellness, Work, Young
Yesterday's Answer: Bond

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Miller, Wong rally Miami past Texas 88-81 for 1st Final Four



KANSAS CITY, Mo.

(AP)—On the eve of Miami playing for a place in its first Final Four, the quiet conversation floating through the team hotel did not revolve around all that the Hurricanes had accomplished this season. Instead, they talked about what had happened to bring last season to a close.

The sting of an Elite Eight defeat was fresh to those who were there. And they made everyone else feel it, too.

"That loss sat with me for a really long time," the Hurricanes' Jordan Miller said. "It doesn't go away, and the fact that we had the opportunity to come back and make amends, make it right, that's what was pushing me."

Miller responded with a perfect performance against second-seeded Texas in the Midwest Region final Sunday. Along with Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year Isaiah Wong and March dynamo Nijel Pack, Miller rallied the Hurricanes from a 13-point second-half deficit for an 88-81 victory that clinched that long-awaited trip to the national semifinals.

"How hard we fought to come back in this game, especially on a stage like this, it's an amazing feeling," said Pack, one of Miami's newcomers. "I know how much these guys wanted to win this game, especially being here



Miami celebrates after their win against Texas in an Elite 8 college basketball game in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA Tournament Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.

last year and losing the Elite Eight, and now being able to take it to the Final Four is something special."

Miller finished with 27 points, going 7 of 7 from the field and 13 of 13 from the foul line, while Wong scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half against the Longhorns, who had been the top remaining seed in a topsy-turvy NCAA Tournament.

Now, the No. 5 seed Hurricanes (29-7) have a date

with No. 4 seed UConn on Saturday night in Houston. Two more Final Four newbies, fifth-seeded San Diego State and No. 9 seed Florida Atlantic, will play in the other national semifinal.

It's the first time since seeding began in 1979 that no team seeded better than No. 4 made the Final Four, so perhaps it is fitting that Miami coach Jim Larrañaga is involved. He took George Mason there as an 11 seed 17

years ago to the day.

Miami was a 10 seed last year when it lost 76-50 to eventual national champion Kansas in a regional final.

"No one wanted to go home," said Miller, coincidentally a George Mason transfer, who joined Duke's Christian Laettner as the only players since 1960 to go 20 for 20 combined from the field and foul line in an NCAA tourney game. "We came together. We stuck together. We showed

really good perseverance and the will—the will to just want to get there."

After Miami climbed back from a 64-51 deficit with 13:22 to play, the game was tied at 79-all when Norchad Omier was fouled by the Longhorns' Brock Cunningham while going for a loose ball. He made both of the foul shots to give the Hurricanes the lead, then stole the ball from Texas star Marcus Carr at the other end, and Wong made to more free throws with 34 seconds remaining to keep them ahead for good.

Miller kept drilling foul shots down the stretch to ice the Midwest Region title for the Hurricanes.

Wooga Poplar scored 16 points, and Pack followed up his virtuoso performance against top-seeded Houston with 15, as the same school that once dropped hoops entirely in the 1970s advanced to the game's biggest stage.

"You just love when your players accomplish a goal they set out before the season," Larrañaga said.

Carr led the Longhorns (29-9) with 17 points, though he was bothered by a hamstring injury late in the game. Timmy Allen added 16 and Sir'Jabari Rice had 15 in the finale of a season that began with the firing of Chris Beard over domestic violence charges that were later dropped and ended with interim coach Rodney Terry consoleing a heartbroken team.

"These guys more than any group I've worked with in 32 years of coaching have really embodied, in terms of staying the course, being a team," Terry said, choking up so hard on the postgame dais that he

could barely speak. "They were so unselfish as a team, and they gave us everything they had. They really did."

The Longhorns revealed about 90 minutes before tipoff that Dylan Disu, the Big 12 tourney MVP and early star of the NCAA Tournament, would miss the game with a foot injury. He hurt it in the second round against Penn State and only played about 90 seconds in the Sweet 16 against Xavier before watching the rest of that game in a walking boot.

Without their 6-foot-9 star, the Longhorns' deep group of dangerous guards resorted to potshots from the perimeter against Miami's porous defense. Rice hit two 3s early, Carr two of his own, and the Longhorns stormed to a 45-37 halftime lead.

On the other end, Texas tried to keep Pack and Wong from producing a sequel to their 3-point barrage against Houston.

Pack, who dropped seven 3s in the regional semifinal, didn't even attempt one until there were 7 1/2 minutes left in the first half, and his best shot—a looping rainbow as he fell out of bound—didn't even count because it went over the backboard.

Wong took as many shots and scored as many points (two) as he had turnovers in the game's first 20 minutes.

The Longhorns' advantage stretched to 13 in the second half, and tension built on the Miami bench. At one point, Harlond Beverly and Larrañaga got into a verbal spat and the 73-year-old coach yanked the backup guard from the game.

Fortunately for the 'Canes, Pack and Wong were poised, Poplar and Miller seemingly possessed.

Still trailing 72-64 with about eight minutes to play, Pack and Wong joined Miller and Omier in turbocharging a 13-3 run to give the Hurricanes a 77-75 lead, their first since the opening minutes. When Rice answered at the other end for Texas, Miller calmly made two go-ahead free throws to begin his late-game parade to the line.

Carr made a nifty turnaround jumper to tie the game again for Texas, but the Miami momentum never slowed. Omier made two free throws with a minute left, swiped the ball from Carr at the other end, and Miller and Co. finished it off.

"We just all bought into staying together, keeping that hope alive," Miller said, "and the way we just willed this one through, I think everybody played really well, and I think it really shows the poise of this squad."

San Diego State muscles past Creighton, makes 1st Final Four

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Darrion Trammell had shot enough free throws in practice to believe at least one would fall when it mattered.

San Diego State's 5-foot-10 senior guard was fouled by Creighton's Ryan Nemhard when he put up a floater near the free-throw line with 1.2 seconds left in a rugged NCAA Tournament East Region final that was tied at 56-all.

Trammell's first free throw clanged off the rim, but he knocked down the second, and that was enough to push the defense-first Aztecs into their first Final Four with a 57-56 victory on Sunday.

Lamont Butler scored 18 points and Trammell had 12 for fifth-seeded San Diego State (31-6), which slowed down high-scoring, sixth-seeded Creighton (24-13) and became the first Mountain West Conference team to reach the national semifinals.

The experienced Aztecs, in their sixth season under coach Brian Dutcher, will play the surprising East Region champion, ninth-seeded Florida Atlantic, on Saturday

in Houston for a spot in the national title game.

"Here we are," said Dutcher, a longtime assistant to his predecessor, Steve Fisher. "We're making the next step and it's something we've always talked about. I'm sure there were people that doubted we could do it, but we never doubted for a minute."

"Not to say it's easy to get there or that we would ever get there. But we're there now, and we're going to go and try to win the thing."

In the final seconds, Trammell dribbled from the perimeter and elevated for the potential winning shot. A chasing Nemhard got his hand on Trammell's hip and was whistled for the foul, sending Trammell to the line for the first time in the game.

"I feel like I've shot probably a thousand free throws in the last week," said Trammell, who was named the region's most outstanding player. "And then today, I feel like I put in the work to be able to step up and have confidence that I'm going to make 'em."

Make one, anyway.

Creighton couldn't get a shot off on its final, desperation play. Baylor Scheierman threw the ensuing inbound pass the length of the floor. San Diego State's Aguek Arop and Creighton's Arthur Kaluma both jumped for it and the ball deflected out of bounds. Officials reviewed the play and determined that time had expired, and the celebration was on for the Aztecs.

"I wasn't given an explanation other than there was no time on the clock," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "They made no call on the floor but officiating is part of the game and we're not gonna go there."

Scheierman had tied the game at 56-all when he stole an inbound pass and converted a layup with 34 seconds remaining.

Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 17 points and Scheierman and Kaluma had 12 apiece for the Bluejays, who went 2 of 17 from 3-point range.

The Aztecs, who got this far thanks to defense and physical play, held the Bluejays to 23 second-half points on 28% shooting as they won

for the 14th time in 15 games. Creighton shot 40% overall.

San Diego State shot 38% but got clutch baskets from Nathan Mensah, whose jumper gave the Aztecs a 56-54 lead with 1:37 left, and Arop, who made two straight shots before that for a 54-50 advantage with 3:03 remaining.

"I've done that a thousand times throughout the season, so it was just another shot for me," Arop, who had six points, said of his go-ahead jumper. "Obviously, there was a lot more weight to it, but I wasn't thinking like that. I was just thinking, staying in rhythm, getting the shot up and putting my team up front."

Creighton, which beat San Diego State in overtime in the first round of last year's NCAA Tournament, fell just short of joining Big East rival UConn in the Final Four.

The teams didn't appear to share any hard feelings from last year's meeting. They shared a round-trip flight to Hawaii last fall for the Maui Invitational, and there were no dustups during a tight, physical game in which no team led by more than eight points.

LeBron returns from injury, but Lakers lose 118-108 to Bulls



LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James scored 19 points off the bench in his return from a monthlong injury absence, but Zach LaVine had 32 to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 118-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

DeMar DeRozan added 17 points for the Bulls, who easily overcame James' return with an impressive performance in their seventh win in nine games. LaVine hit 11 of his first 14 shots to lead an offensive effort that snapped the Lakers' three-game winning streak despite the return of the NBA's career scoring leader.

James sat out 13 games with right foot soreness, missing four weeks during the Lakers' run at a playoff berth.

For only the second time in his 20-year, 1,958-game NBA career, James wasn't a starter. He came in midway through the first quarter.

The Lakers still were without D'Angelo Russell, who missed his second straight game with a right hip injury. Los Angeles went 8-5 in James' absence.

CAVALIERS 108, ROCKETS 91

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jarrett Allen had 24 points and 14 rebounds, Donovan Mitchell scored 22 and Cleveland beat Houston to clinch a playoff spot for the first time since 2018.

It's also the first time Cleveland has made the playoffs without LeBron James on the roster since 1998.

The Cavaliers are closing in on locking up the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference—and home-court advantage in the first round. They've won 9 of 11.

Evan Mobley added 19 points and Darius Garland had 17 for Cleveland.

Jalen Green scored 30 to

pace the Rockets, who have lost five straight.

GRIZZLIES 123, HAWKS 119

ATLANTA (AP)—Ja Morant scored 27 points in his return to the Memphis starting lineup and the Grizzlies held off Atlanta for their sixth consecutive win.

Desmond Bane added 25 points for Memphis, twice delivering fourth-quarter baskets after the Hawks pulled within one.

Memphis is second in the Western Conference despite a 15-22 road record. But the six-game winning streak, the NBA's longest active streak, includes two victories away from home.

Morant received a big cheer from the Atlanta sell-out crowd during pregame introductions. He came off the bench in his first two games after serving an eight-game NBA suspension for posting a video in which he was shown waving a gun at a Denver-area strip club.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 28 points and 10 assists, one day after he was ejected for throwing the ball at an official during a 143-130 win over Indiana.

CELTICS 137, SPURS 93

BOSTON (AP)—Jaylen Brown scored 41 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Boston over San Antonio.

The Celtics were without star forward and leading scorer Jayson Tatum, who was sidelined with a bruised left hip. But they still moved within 1½ games of Milwaukee for the Eastern Conference's best record with their seventh victory in nine games.

Malcolm Brogdon added 20 points and nine assists for Boston, and Derrick White had 19 points with eight rebounds.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) scores past Chicago Bulls forward Patrick Williams during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Zach Collins had 21 points with seven rebounds for the Spurs, who finished an 0-4 road trip.

TIMBERWOLVES 99, WARRIORS 96

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 11 seconds to play after Kyle Anderson stole a pass by Draymond Green, and Minnesota held off Golden State.

Jordan Poole gave Golden State the lead on a 3 with 1:28 left, moments after Towns had connected from deep. Poole had a game-high 27 points.

The Warriors had a chance with 9.9 seconds left but Stephen Curry couldn't corral Poole's errant pass, then Curry missed a contested 3 from the baseline just before the final buzzer.

Towns had 14 points and five rebounds in his second outing following a 52-game absence with a strained right calf.

The Warriors had their nine-game home winning streak snapped and missed a chance to boost their playoff

positioning. A victory also would have clinched Sacramento's first postseason berth since 2006. The Kings will try to end the longest playoff drought in NBA history Monday night at home against Minnesota.

HORNETS 110, MAVERICKS 104

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets overcame a 40-point outing from Luka Doncic for their second win over Dallas in three days, another costly blow to the Mavericks' playoff hopes.

Gordon Hayward scored 22 points and P.J. Washington added 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who have been eliminated from playoff contention.

Doncic picked up his 16th technical foul of the season in the third quarter, meaning he will face a one-game suspension Monday night unless the technical is rescinded by the league office.

Kyrie Irving had 18 points for Dallas.

RAPTORS 114, WIZARDS 104

TORONTO (AP)—O.G. Anunoby scored 29 points, Fred VanVleet had 28 and Toronto never trailed in a win over Washington.

Pascal Siakam had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Jakob Poeltl added 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Ninth-place Toronto clinched the three-game season series with the Wizards and maintained a three-game lead over 11th-place Washington in the Eastern Conference standings. Both teams have seven games remaining.

Scottie Barnes scored 13 points in his return to the starting lineup after missing two games because of a sore left wrist as Toronto won for the ninth time in 10 home games.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 26 points for the short-handed Wizards, who have lost four straight road games. Washington played without guard Bradley Beal (left knee) for the third straight game, while forward Kyle Kuzma (right ankle) sat out for the fourth

consecutive game. Washington was also without guard Monte Morris (left groin).

MAGIC 119, NETS 106

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Cole Anthony had 21 points to lead eight Orlando scorers in double figures, and the Magic overcame Mikal Bridges' 44 points in a victory over Brooklyn.

Franz Wagner added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Orlando. Wendell Carter had 18 points and six rebounds, and Jalen Suggs returned from an injury with 16 points to help the Magic win their third straight. Paolo Banchero finished with 11 points and nine rebounds.

Bridges came up one point short of his career high. Cam Thomas added 18 points for the Nets, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

THUNDER 118, TRAIL BLAZERS 112

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points and Oklahoma City beat depleted Portland.

Jalen Williams had 23 points and Isaiah Joe added 20 off the bench for the Thunder (37-38), who moved into a tie for ninth place in the Western Conference with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Shaedon Sharpe led the Trail Blazers with a career-high 29 points, and Nassir Little scored a season-best 28 off the bench. The loss was Portland's eighth in 10 games. The Blazers (32-42) are four games back of 10th place in the West and the final spot in the play-in tournament.

Portland was playing without four of its five regular starters as guards Damian Lillard (right calf) and Anfernee Simons (right foot), forward Jerami Grant (left calf) and center Jusuf Nurkic (right knee) all sat out.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The Sacramento Kings might just be riding the beam all the way to the NBA playoffs.

The resurgent Kings are on the verge of ending the longest postseason drought in league history, with first-year coach Mike Brown employing a fast-paced offense led by the dynamic duo of De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis to put Sacramento in first place in the Pacific Division.

"It's a great feeling. It's great because it's my first time," Fox said of being in the playoff hunt. "This is something we want to make annual. We want to be contending for a title. ... It's great for the city and organization. We still want bigger things for ourselves."

The Kings (43-29) are in third place in the Western

Success-starved Kings close in on long-awaited playoff berth

Conference and might be able to clinch the franchise's first playoff berth since 2006 during the final three games of a four-game homestand that ends Monday night against Minnesota.

The 16 seasons without a playoff berth are the longest in NBA history and the longest active postseason drought among any team in the NBA, NFL, NHL or Major League Baseball.

"I do feel that that group believes in themselves, not just because I'm telling them they're good, but because they've actually gone out and proven it time after time after time, whether it's individually in certain situations or collectively as a team," Brown

said. "When you have a team that believes, they can be dangerous. You've got a connected team that believes, they can be a very dangerous team and that's what our group is right now."

The Kings are also one of the best feel-good stories of the NBA this season with an entertaining style of basketball that leads the league in scoring at 120.9 points per game for the highest mark in the league since 1983-84.

Each win at home is punctuated with the lighting of the beam—a beam of light from purple lasers atop the Golden 1 Center—and fans have even chanted for the beam at road games around the country.

"There's like a playoff

atmosphere every night," swingman Kevin Huerter, one of the key offseason acquisitions, said after a recent home win. "The only thing that's missing is handing out the T-shirts and maybe some towels, whatever they're doing for the playoffs. But it really is this every night."

The Kings have been one of the most success-starved franchises since moving to Sacramento in 1985. They had a losing record in each of their first 14 seasons in California, winning just one playoff game.

That all changed in 1999 when general manager Geoff Petrie and coach Rick Adelman built a winner around players like Chris Webber, Vlade Divac and Peja Stojakovic that played an entertaining style in a grind-it-out era that nearly delivered a championship.

The Kings posted eight straight winning records and playoff berths under Adelman, but lost a heartbreaking seven-game series to the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002 and then saw their title hopes derailed the following year when Webber went down with a serious knee injury in the second round of the playoffs.

Adelman kept the team competitive through 2006 but was let go following a second straight first-round playoff exit.

Then the dark era began with 16 straight losing seasons under 11 coaches, an owner-

ship change and fears that the city would lose its only major pro team to Seattle.

Vivek Ranadive bought the team from the Maloof family in 2013 and kept the team in Sacramento by building a downtown arena, but there was no on-court success until this year.

The Kings traded away star DeMarcus Cousins and botched several high draft picks. But they have been revived following last year's trade with Indiana that sent promising guard Tyrese Haliburton to Indiana for a playmaking big man in Sabonis and the decision to hire Brown as coach.

Sabonis proved to be the perfect piece to team with the speedy Fox, giving Sacramento a dynamic duo.

Lady Legals, Hotshots outpace opponents in BASA



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, a Hotshots batter eyes a pitch in one of their games in the women's division of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Lady Legals and Hotshots outpaced their respective opponents in the women's division of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

The Lady Legals doubled their runs against the Lady Sufa, 12-6, while Janice Celis of the Hotshots shutout Team BDE, 11-1.

The first inning was quiet for both teams, but in the second inning, the Lady Legals' bats came alive and brought in six runs.

While the Lady Legals kept the scorekeeper busy, Lady Sufa still laid goose eggs until the fourth inning when Anna-lyn Olupumar hit a double, followed with a two-run single by Brinae Cruz.

The Lady Legals then added three more runs for an 11-3 game, and only three more runs were made by the Lady Sufa in the last inning for a final of 12-6.

Throughout the game, the Lady Legals' Edilyn Benjamin hit a solo homer, Pauline Camacho went 4-for-4 at bat, while teammate Almira Guerrero had two RBIs.

In the Hotshots-BDE game, the only run scored against Ce-

lis was a homerun made in the fifth inning, but other than that, BDE had a limited number of hits against the Hotshots.

Meanwhile, the Hotshots were flaming up the field once

they found their groove in the third inning, bringing in three runs led off by Erica Tenorio.

Celis also helped her offense as a base hit off a BDE error allowed Mardina Kaipat to run

home after her double. Tenorio went 3-for-4 at bats, while Rosie Saralu earned two RBIs, and Janica Lizama had three RBIs off a triple.

Three more runs each in the

fifth and sixth inning made for a 11-1 game as BDE couldn't conjure up more.

Results of the men's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

First-timer, birthday girl top 10K

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Visiting Jason Carman and birthday girl Ann Bang won the run portion of the 8th Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run held early Saturday morning along Beach Road.

Carman, a first-timer on Saipan from Eugene, Oregon, tore the two-round course from the Kili Beach Pavilion to Hardt Eye Clinic and back in a flat 48 minutes. Run Saipan member Simon Necesito came in second in 51:38 overall, while Raymund Tolentino completed the Top 3 in 52:28.

The 50-year-old training strategist of Rural Communities Assistance Corp. said he found out about the 10K run as well as the CHCC Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run & Walk the day before during a training session with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operators.

Carman, who is more of a marathon runner but admits busting out a few 10K runs a year, said he absolutely enjoyed his back-to-back runs on

the island.

"Today's run was great and the weather was amazing as it was a little bit cooler. It's still a bit humid for me and I'm not used to it. If I stay here a couple more days I'll probably be better off... I love Saipan, it's amazing, and my favorite place out here," he said.

Carman said he used to be a trail bike enthusiast but got hooked into running due to the

start of the COVID-19 lockdown 2 1/2 years ago.

Bang, for her part, celebrated her 49th birthday a couple of days early by topping the women's division in 53:33. She was followed by Jessica Ortizo and Kathleen Tolentino in 56:23 and 58:50, respectively.

"Ran the CHCC 5K Happy Hearts Run last night and did my best this morning. I had no

sleep and it was unbelievable as it's really hard and tough doing back-to-back runs with 10K [as the cool down run]," said Bang, a mother of two.

The veteran runner said she's pretty familiar with Saturday's 10K course as it's her usual route in her morning runs.

"All my friends and neighbors, I saw them all and they cheered for me...even the dogs," joked Bang.

She admitted not keen in joining the 10K at first given she registered for the 5K first, but Triathlon Association of the CNMI secretary general Jojo Valencia egged her on and now she's happy she gave in to the request.

Bang will be off-island from May to June this year as she is going on vacation to her home country of Korea before going on a cruise to Italy.

She dedicated her 10K win to her Run Saipan family. "I progressed [a lot in running] after joining the club," she said.

Age group winners include the following: Jeane Bracken in the women's U30 (1:08:34); Adam Walsh (55:38) in the men's 30-39; Pamela Walsh (1:02:41) and Vhoie Francia (59:37) in the 40-49; and Andrzej Szeffler (1:16:52) in the men's over 60.



Carman



Bang

MIGHTY

From Page 20

captain of the Mighty Deez Jerome Manzon said that they have never played against their opponent during the tournament so it was a surprise match.

"We didn't know what they had, and they didn't know what we had. So it was a tie, but we knew that we were both the Top 2 teams and in the end, the top team would come out in the finals."

He said that the strategy playing against the top team of the

other pool was just to stay positive throughout the matches.

"We just had to stay positive through teamwork, keep everyone uplifted, and to promote positivity in the group so that it can reflect in our momentum going through the tournament."

Their toughest competition was Team Wetz, said Manzon. "They had strong chemistry in the beginning of the preliminary matches. Since we lost to them, we used that match to work on what we were missing and what we needed to focus on."

As for the tournament, Manzon said that the turnout was "amazing. My goodness, I can't even say anything. I had a great team behind me—my stats team, my organization, the volunteers that came out, they all really helped me to execute this whole entire

tournament. I would like to say thank you to everyone that came out. The service organization and my board members, Agape Christian School, and the rest of the people who helped me here, I'd like to say thank you, and we're looking forward to more."

PEPOY

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Construction and entered the payoff period up by 39 whop-points.

The fat lady already sang in the fourth but play was halted with a little over 3 minutes left in the contest when RNV Construction point guard Benedict Zapanta hit his head hard on the court. Paramedics eventually arrived and whisked him to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was treated.

The game was understandably called off with Camacho and Sablan leading Pepoy's Cafe in scoring with 19 and 14 points, respectively, while bullstrong Andy Mortos paced RNV Construction with 14 markers.

In the second game, Edmund Basi connected on a triple with about 7 seconds left to lift Ace Aircon to a 79-78 win over Double A/Vizion.

It was a dogfight from the get-go between the evenly matched teams with Ace Aircon taking a 19-16 lead after the first quarter.

Double A/Vizion hunkered down to work in the second and took a 38-37 candlestick spread at the half before Ace Aircon managed to take the initiative coming into the fourth and final quarter, 58-53. That set up the tug of war in the final 10 minutes of the contest.

Basi led all scorers with 21 points, while center Jorge De Guzman and Alvin Fundador added 15 markers apiece. Longtom artist Rodney

Catalla led the way for Double A/Vizion with 16 markers with John Jugos adding 14 points.

Last Saturday, Blue Haus made mincemeat of JSN Enterprises Inc., 81-66, in the masters division. In the open division, New Chang Ming Market beat JTM Saipan, 76-59.

Last Thursday, Lakay bullied Susan's Catering, 91-82, and Puerto Rico Bento surprised Ali'i, 90-77, both in the open division.

On Wednesday in the open division, The Game toyed with Checkpoint Intl., 85-66, and JTM Saipan debuted with a 65-49 thrashing of Socho Team.

First Game

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant 77 – Camacho 19, Sa-

blan 14, Mamaril 10, Villacrusis 8, Natividad 7, Usi 7, Galulu 6, Tabora 4, Mina 2.

RNV Construction 43 – Mortos 14, Jumaquio 6, Odicta 5, Bucayag 4, Udaundo 3, Alfonso 3, Zapanta 2, Rueda 2, R. Tagle 2, M. Tagle 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-8, 46-19, 70-31, 77-43.

Second Game

Ace Aircon 79 – Basi 21, De Guzman 15, Fundador 15, Bisana 8, Tobias 4, Tibayan 4, Dayrit 4, Montano 3, Pangelinan 3, Manabat 2.

Double A Corp./Vizion Insurance 78 – Catalla 15, Jugos 14, Sedillo 12, Rivera 12, Tenorio 6, Lumanlan 5, Lontoc 4, Palero 3, Surima 2, Pablo 2, Cabaluna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 37-38, 58-53, 79-78.

BEARS

From Page 20

of the early jam as he struck out the bottom of the lineup.

The second inning was another run frenzy for the Bears as Teregeyo could not handle his pitches with four consecutive runs scored from the top of the lineup.

The Brewers also had trouble with their fielding as easy defensive plays turned into errors causing the Bears to capitalize and score six runs for a 10-0 game.

The Brewers' only two runs came from T.J. Dela Cruz off a Bears' fielding error and another run by Bing Nakamura. The Bears pitcher held the Brewers off as his offense took them further into the W at the end of the game.

In the second game in the early evening, the Junior Nationals' Jeremiah Suel drew first blood off a Cardinals fielding error for a 1-0 game.

Then Joel Deleon Guerrero and Ylon Sablan added two more runs in the second, but the Cardinals then caught wind and scored two as well for a 3-2 game in favor of the Junior Nationals.

The Cardinals' Nokki Saralu went for a base hit in the third and was brought in by a double off Matthew Camacho for tying run, 3-3.

The Junior Nationals were then subsequently shut down in the next innings as only one more run came in made by Sablan once again. The Cardinals showed that experience trumped youth as six more runs came in the last couple of innings for a 9-4 game.



Miller, Wong rally
Miami past Texas
88-81 for 1st Final
Four
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lady Legals,
Hotshots outpace
opponents in BASA

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mighty Deez are SVSA v-ball champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Team Mighty Deez came out the mightiest in the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Spring Volleyball Tournament championship game against the 4 Starz last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

In a five-set championship round, the Mighty Deez did not allow the 4 Starz any leverage as the finals ended in a sweep of only three sets by the Mighty Deez.

The Mighty Deez, made up of the rotation of Jerome Manzón, Juruel Magtalas, William Arriola, Lowell Lumauag, John Justo, Raiki Tababa, Dylan Mister, and Mokyang Kim, whipped 4 Starz from the get-go, but not without a fight in the end.

The 4 Starz, which included Nak Nakashima, Yohei Iwashita, Denri Fiden, Kaystone Norech, Gino Asauo, Nahson Padahk, and Marc Danga, were overpowered as they fell, 16-25, in the first set.

In the second set, 4 Starz tried to retaliate but could not produce the desired outcome as they trailed behind early.

Magtalas reigned with his immaculate serves which handed Mighty Deez multiple consecutive points, but

the momentum shifted when the offense swung over to the 4 Stars when they caught up. However, the Mighty Deez regained their composure and pulled the W in a close 25-23 victory.

The last and deciding set was dominated by Mister's right-hand unhittable kills which was always perfectly set by Justo. Mighty Deez played aggressively at the net, not giving 4 Starz ample time to reset, and also landed multiple aces—a few of which came from Manzón.

Mighty Deez outpaced the 4 Starz and landed more well-placed shots and resulted in a sweep of the finals, 25-21.

The MVP award of the finals went to Dylan Mister with 21 kills; Best Setter went to John Justo; Most Blocks went to Nayson Padak with 5; Most Kills (21) and Most Aces (5) went to Manzón.

SVSA president and team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Mighty Deez players pose for a picture after the championship game against 4 Starz in the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Spring Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium. From left, Mokyang Joseph Kim, Jerome Manzón, William Arriola, Juruel Magtalas, Dylan Mister, Lowell Lumauag, Raiki Tababa, and John Justo.



LEIGH GASES

Mighty Deez's John Justo, left attempts to block a spike from 4 Starz's Nahson Padahk in the second set of the championship game in the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Spring Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

Pepoy's debuts strong; Ace Aircon escapes Vizion

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant had a strong debut against RNV Construction, while Ace Aircon nipped Double A Corp./Vizion Insurance in the continuation of the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

With high-flying Gab Camacho leading the way, Pepoy's Cafe buried RNV Construction under a ton of points and led 28-8 in the

first quarter.

Out for redemption Dave Sablan then joined the scoring parade in the second as Pepoy's Cafe continued to throttle their opponents and opened an insurmountable 46-19 spread at the half.

It was more of the same in the third, as Pepoy's Cafe more than doubled RNV

See PEPOY'S on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant's Dave Sablan drives against a RNV Construction defender in their masters division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



Bears, Cardinals win baseball doubleheader

the young Junior Nationals team, 9-4.

Brewers pitcher Reid Teregeyo was pummeled from the jump as his pitches were high and off the strike zone, walking the first three Bears batters, and followed by stolen bases that put them into scoring positions.

The Bears' lineup did not let up as Greg Ishikawa hit an RBI single, followed by an RBI triple from Angel Palacios. Teregeyo finally got out

See BEARS on Page 19

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CK Bears and the Cardinals bested their foes in the opening game day doubleheader of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Saturday afternoon at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Bears, the defending champions from the last SBL season in 2019, proved their might once again as they demolished the Brewers, 11-2, while the Cardinals bested



LEIGH GASES
Brewers pitcher Reid Teregeyo goes for a pitch against the CK Bears in the first game of the doubleheader opening day of the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

